

Out goes the old registry office in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Britain's eschew romanticism, as the old registry office in London has decided to close. The House of Lords passed a bill to allow the state to take over the registry office, which has been providing a place for civil weddings since the 17th century. The bill, which is expected to pass, would allow the state to take over the registry office, which has been providing a place for civil weddings since the 17th century. The bill, which is expected to pass, would allow the state to take over the registry office, which has been providing a place for civil weddings since the 17th century.

World population may jump one-third by 2025

WASHINGTON (R) — The population of the world could rise by three billion people, from six billion now, by the year 2025, according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau. The report, which is based on current trends, predicts that the world population will reach 9 billion by 2025. This is a significant increase from the current population of 6 billion. The report also predicts that the population of the United States will reach 350 million by 2025, up from 250 million today.

Islamic preacher held for kissing women's navels

JALAL LUMPUK (R) — A self-styled Islamic preacher has been detained in Malaysia for kissing the navels of women. The preacher, who is known as "Abdullah", was caught by police after he was seen kissing the navels of a group of women in a public place. The women were also detained and charged with public indecency. The incident has caused a stir in the conservative Islamic community in Malaysia.

Iran accepts women in army, ivy schools

IPEI (R) — Taiwan's navy and army academies will accept women students for the first time, the defence ministry said Tuesday. This is a significant step towards gender equality in the military. The ministry also announced that women will be allowed to study at ivy league universities. This decision was made after a long campaign by women's rights groups in Taiwan.

New Gaza council starts work

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday inaugurated Gaza City's new local council, formed of 10 non-partisan technocrats. Awn Shawwa, head of the council, said his task was "to improve the efficiency of municipal administration, to improve services provided to citizens, with attention to electricity, roads and sanitation." After seven years of an uprising against Israeli rule, the infrastructure and public services such as garbage collection and street cleaning are in a state of collapse. Mr. Shawwa said the council would also intensify efforts to obtain funds from donor countries for technical or financial assistance. Palestinian authority, said an official French delegation had agreed to help clean up Gaza City, which is to be twinned with Paris. The municipality is to function until local elections are held, possibly on Dec. 15. Mr. Arafat appointed the municipal council after months of wrangling over the participation of Islamic fundamentalist factions and other groups opposed to his autonomy agreement with Israel.

Israel doubles W. Bank police

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AFP) — The number of Israeli policemen deployed in the occupied West Bank will be doubled from next week to 1,200 men, a police inspector said Wednesday. The police commander made the announcement during a tour of Hebron and the adjacent Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. Police spokesman Erez Bar Chen told AFP the decision was part of overall restructuring for the start of Palestinian autonomy which is to be spread from the Gaza Strip and Jericho across the West Bank. The old police division of the West Bank into northern and southern districts will disappear and be replaced by a single "autonomy district" from Monday. The district headquarters will be temporarily housed in East Jerusalem until a new building is finished at the Jewish settlement of Maale Adumim, between Jerusalem and Jericho.

Turkey gets new foreign minister

ANKARA (AP) — A former adviser to the Turkish Cypriot known for his pro-Israeli views was named foreign minister Wednesday in a major reshuffle of the Turkish cabinet. The appointment of Mehmet Soyasal as foreign minister was one of 11 changes in the 32-member cabinet carried out by the Social Democrats, junior partners in Premier Tansu Ciller's coalition. The reshuffle has been held up since Sunday because of the refusal of Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and several other officials to resign. Mr. Soyasal, 45, served as an adviser to Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for more than a decade. Mr. Soyasal is opposed to Turkish policy since the 1990 Gulf war allowing a U.S.-led Western air force to use a Turkish base to monitor Baghdad's treatment of its Kurds in northern Iraq.

Yemen to turn Aden into free zone

ADEN (R) — The Yemen government plans to move swiftly to turn the ravaged southern port of Aden into a free trade zone in line with policy agreed before civil war which ended on July 7. Aden's new governor said on Wednesday, "The intention is to move very swiftly to transform Aden into a free trade zone in accordance with what has been declared officially." Governor Taha Ahmad Ghanem told Reuters. Mr. Ghanem, appointed by Sanaa to replace sacked southerner Saleh Al Seyali, noted that Sanaa had announced that free zone plan for Aden last year. He said that in addition to repairing Aden's war-damaged infrastructure, the government planned to improve services in Aden and groom the city, particularly the beach front along the shores of the Gulf of Aden. "The intention is to restore to Aden within a short period of time its role as commercial and economic capital," Mr. Ghanem said.

Iran to bring plant under IAEA watch

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has agreed to bring a nuclear power station of the southern town of Bushehr under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Tehran Radio said Wednesday. The radio quoted a statement from the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation as saying that Iran "remains committed" to the regulations stipulated by IAEA on nuclear non-proliferation.

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Jordan, Israel and U.S. resume talks on Jordan Valley projects

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN, ISRAEL and the U.S. on Wednesday followed up the historic signing of the Washington Declaration by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by launching a new round of talks on economic projects to develop the Jordan Rift Valley.

Jordanian officials, meanwhile, spoke of the need for economic assistance for the Kingdom to build on the declaration.

King Hussein, in a rare interview with Israel Television broadcast on Wednesday, said he hoped Jordan and Israel would sign a peace treaty by the end of the year.

The King and Mr. Rabin ended a 46-year state of war between their countries at the historic summit in Washington on Monday.

King Hussein, striding through the lobby of his Washington hotel, was asked by an Israeli television reporter if he would sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state this year.

He told the reporter, who identified himself to the King as an Israeli television correspondent, "I hope that this will happen, yes."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have predicted that a

Jordanian-Israeli treaty would be signed within months.

"I cannot give any specific time" for a signing, the King said, adding: "I think both sides are determined to move ahead as rapidly as we can."

At the economic talks Faysal Tarawneh of Jordan, Eliakim Rubinstein of Israel and U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross were expected to draw up an overall plan for developing the Jordan Valley.

"We must now move from words to actions and establish the foundations of peace," said a senior Jordanian official accompanying King Hussein told the Agence France Presse (AFP).

Economic and social stability at home were the key factors, he said.

"The United States has understood this, and the Israeli prime minister staunchly defended the Jordanian cause in talks with Washington," the official said.

Mr. Rabin, who returned to Israel Wednesday, took every opportunity to appeal for economic aid for Jordan during White House receptions, at the State Department and before Congress, Jordanian delegation members said.

Congress is expected to approve a U.S. administra-

tion proposal to write off Jordan's debt to the U.S., amounting to some \$700 million over three years.

"The cancellation of 30 per cent of this debt will be announced in a week, the rest — spread out over two years — will be decided before the end of August," the senior Jordanian official said.

The U.S. had already agreed to look favourably on Jordan's military needs as well, he said.

Mr. Rabin and his wife Leah visited King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Four Seasons Hotel where they were staying.

Their common aim is "to make peace succeed by any means and to fight the enemies of peace," according to the Jordanian official.

King Hussein asked for U.S. aid to help Jordan launch a socio-economic programme to allow its people to "feel the positive effects of peace, since unemployment is touching 16 per cent there," Information Minister Jawad Anani told AFP.

In his speech to Congress, the King spoke of the disparity between his own country and Israel. Jordan's per capita income is \$1,200, while Israel's is \$8,000.

(Continued on page 7)

Self-rule talks make progress in Cairo; election in December

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) chief negotiator said Wednesday his team was nearing agreement with Israel on broadening Palestinian authority for health and education.

But he complained that Israel still had not complied with provisions of last May's Israel-PLO pact, including "safe passage" for Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank town of Jericho.

"What is going on here is progressing fast, definitely we will finish education and health this time," negotiator Nabil Shaath said of the current round of talks, which began last week.

The teams still must discuss tourism and social welfare. Dr. Shaath said he expected that Palestinian in the West Bank would have full control of tourism and health, but "sometime in August."

Israel's chief negotiator,

Major-General Danny Rothchild, confirmed the two sides were close on education and health issues but said the overall budget for autonomous Palestinian areas was "the main problem." He did not give details.

Dr. Shaath repeated earlier criticisms over implementation on the May 4 Cairo accord. The agreement gave Palestinians limited autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. The teams are now negotiating the expansion of Palestinian authority to other Palestinian towns and villages in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Dr. Shaath said that Israel's failure to follow up on the accord and set up routes for Palestinians to use between Gaza and Jericho was "making life miserable" for families in both areas.

He also complained that

Palestinians have not been allowed to set up checkpoints to control entry into the autonomous areas, as stipulated in the accord.

Meanwhile, general elections in the autonomous areas have been postponed until Dec. 15 awaiting an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, a senior Palestinian official said.

Saeed Erakat, municipal affairs minister in the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and head of the elections committee, told reporters, "to be realistic we pushed the date back to Dec. 15."

The vote was first set for July 13 but put off until Oct. 15 after the launch of autonomy was held up.

"But Israel must stop delaying because Palestinian elections are necessary," Dr. Erakat said.

According to the autonomy agreement, Palestinian police are to deploy in the

(Continued on page 7)

Bomb explodes in London for second time in 12 hours

LONDON (Agencies) — A car-bomb exploded Wednesday outside the offices of several Jewish groups, the second blast in 12 hours blamed on groups bent on derailing Middle East peace.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks which injured at least 19 people, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin saw it as the work of "radical Islamic terrorists."

The Foreign Office said someone claiming to represent Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, had made a claim of responsibility for attacking the Israeli embassy on Tuesday. The claim was not made directly to British authorities, the Foreign Office said.

Mohammad Nazzal, a Jordan-based representative of Hamas, denied the report. "Hamas is not involved in any way in such a terrorist action," Mr. Nazzal told the Associated Press. "Our policy is to attack Israeli targets inside the occupied territories."

had there been an overt police presence neither of these two tragedies would have occurred," said Eldred Tabachnick, president of the board of Deputies of British Jews.

Earlier, he promised round-the-clock protection to a hundred Jewish and Israeli facilities in London, after facing criticism for reacting slowly to the threat.

Both the Israeli embassy and the office building were seriously damaged by bombs which were hidden in cars parked nearby.

"It's really a true blunder of the locals here," General Azriel Nevo, the Israeli military attaché in London, told Israeli army radio.

"After the attack of yesterday afternoon, it was possible to take all the steps. Our people gave their evaluation to the British authorities that there was a danger now to the Jewish institutions and, here you are — there was a blast in the middle of the night," Gen. Nevo said.

"There's never any total security, but I do believe that

the government daily Tishreen said Syria would not submit to pressure and would stick to its demands for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

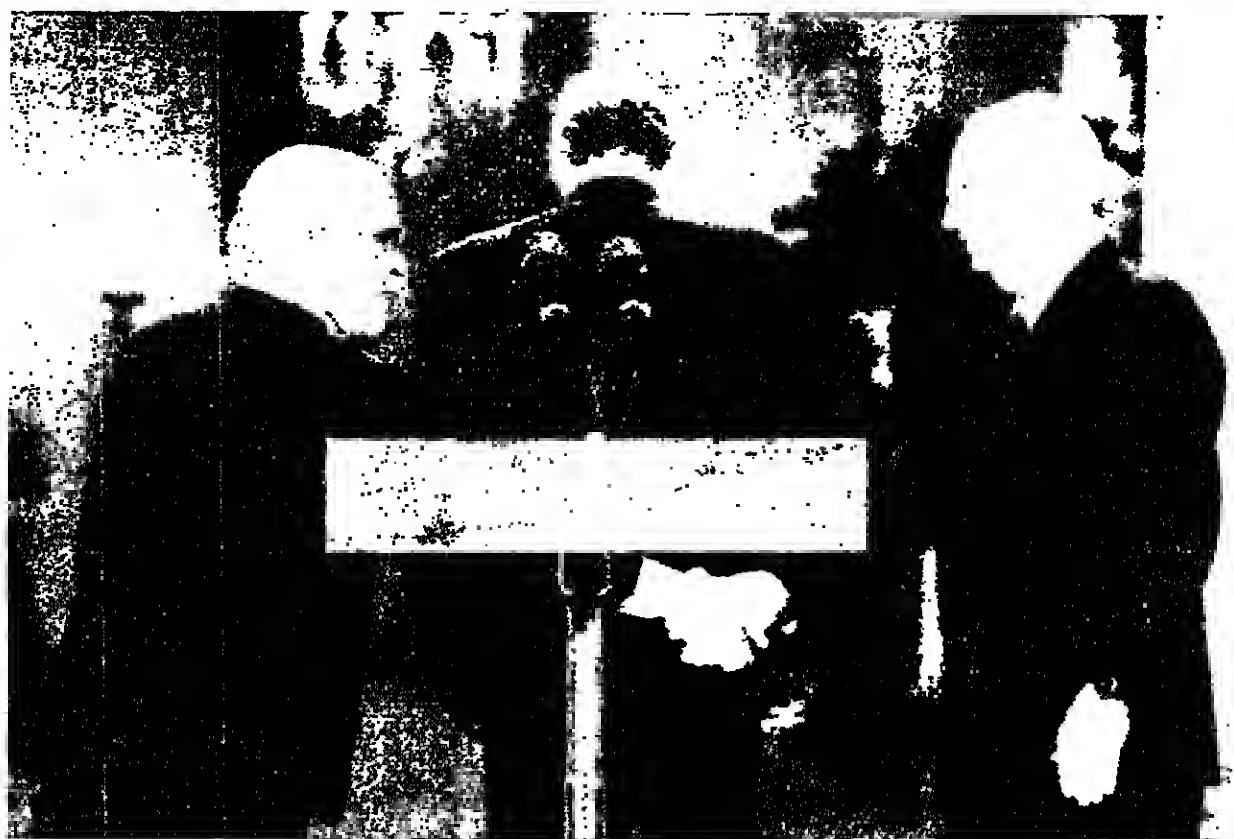
In an apparent reference to the non-belligerency deal signed by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on Monday, Tishreen said "separate" deals would harm the interests of Arabs.

"Israel is saying that recent developments will be an element of pressure on Syria to soften its stand or that Syria will retract from its basic demands calling for full withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon," Tishreen said.

"Syria does not submit to pressures and does not give concessions on its national soil. It could not be dragged to situations which do not serve the higher interests of the nation. Syria's history proves this fact."

Iran's parliament speaker Wednesday called on Syria, its staunchest Arab ally, to refuse to make peace with Israel.

The Tehran Times quoted



His Majesty King Hussein shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as U.S. President Bill Clinton turns and starts to leave after their joint press conference in Washington late Tuesday (AFP photo)

Regent, in message to King, voices Jordan's full backing for his efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday voiced Jordan's full backing of His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for peace and for regaining Arab rights.

In a message he sent to the King in Washington, the Regent said the Jordanian people were following up with "deep interest and appreciation the King's efforts at this historical stage and have expressed absolute support for his relentless endeavours to regain usurped Arab rights."

"In my name and on behalf of the Jordanian people I send you the sincerest feelings of support with deep expression and admiration at your steps which you are shouldering with responsibility towards the nation and towards peace based on justice," the Regent said.

The Jordanian people always appreciated your efforts over the past four decades to build a free nation to live in dignity and enjoy justice and democracy, and they are most delighted to follow your historic trip and your efforts to achieve peace," the Regent said.

"This is a major achievement in which Jordan takes pride," he added.

"Jordan has been keen in putting forth realistic solutions for the Jerusalem question providing for the nation's rights in the holy shrines."

"Indeed the achievement in Washington was not just a crowning of the efforts started with the Madrid conference, but was a result of Jordan's continued endeavours since 1967 when Jerusalem and the West Bank fell under occupation," he said.

The Regent stressed that the question of Jerusalem should be solved in coordination with Arab and Islamic countries and in particular through joint Jordanian-Palestinian endeavours so that the nation can benefit from the achievements realised in Washington.

The Regent said Jordan has always supported the right of Palestinian refugees to repatriation or compensation adding that this question would be at the centre of Jordan's bilateral negotiations with Israel and in its coordination and consultation with other countries and concerned parties.

(Continued on page 7)

"Your current trip served as part of the endeavours inherent in the heritage of the Great Arab Revolt which rose to achieve freedom, unity and independence for the Arabs," Prince Hassan said.

The King's address to the U.S. Congress, Prince Hassan said, marked a "new stage in which the Middle East will be entering the peace revolution to ensure the dignity, freedom and rights of all peoples in the region and guarantee Arab rights in Holy Jerusalem and other holy places in line with U.N. resolutions."

The Regent also said Wednesday Jordan can only accept to see the West Bank and Holy Jerusalem under pan-Arab sovereignty in the framework of a just settlement to the Middle East conflict.

Addressing a meeting attended by Cabinet members, secretaries general of various ministries and heads of departments at Al Hashemiyah Palace, the Regent said that in the Washington Declaration Jordan was able to reaffirm the Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

"This is a major achievement in which Jordan takes pride," he added.

"Jordan has been keen in putting forth realistic solutions for the Jerusalem question providing for the nation's rights in the holy shrines."

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(Continued on page 7)

At the outset of the meeting acting Prime Minister Thounan Al Hindawi thanked the Regent for his briefing describing it as an embodiment of democracy and a show of respect to various Jordanian institutions.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan presented an outline of the Washington Declaration while Ministry of Post and Communications Secretary General Hashem Qudab voiced the audience's full backing for the King's efforts and stressed that the Jordanian people are fully behind their leader, supporting his efforts for peace.

Information Minister Jawad Anani said in a television interview in the United States that Jordan does not require the approval of any party for its own national decisions.

"King Hussein took his decisions which he declared in Washington after he had secured the blessings of his people and their representatives in Parliament who backed his endeavours towards a just and durable peace," Dr.

(Continued on page 7)

Damascus says 'no concessions' to Israel

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria, sticking to its view that "separate" peace deals can only harm the Arabs, said on Wednesday that rapid moves by Jordan and Israel would not force it to make concessions in its own talks with the Jewish state.

The government daily Tishreen said Syria would not submit to pressure and would stick to its demands for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

In an apparent reference to the non-belligerency deal signed by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on Monday, Tishreen said "separate" deals would harm the interests of Arabs.

"Israel is saying that recent developments will be an element of pressure on Syria to soften its stand or that Syria will retract from its basic demands calling for full withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon," Tishreen said.

"Syria does not submit to pressures and does not give concessions on its national soil. It could not be dragged to situations which do not serve the higher interests of the nation. Syria's history proves this fact."

Iran's parliament speaker Wednesday called on Syria, its staunchest Arab ally, to refuse to make peace with Israel.

The Tehran Times quoted

PLO wants Arab talks on Jerusalem

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Wednesday to discuss the future of Jerusalem, after Israel recognised Jordan's historic role in the Holy City, a senior PLO official said Wednesday.

In Washington on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein signed a declaration saying Israel would give "high priority to the Jordanian historic role" in Muslim shrines in Jerusalem.

Mohammad Sobeh, the PLO representative to the Arab League, said the emergency meeting would debate "the reference (in the Washington Declaration) to Jordan's religious responsibilities towards Jerusalem, to head off any misunderstandings that could affect the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on Jerusalem's status."

Top PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said the PLO wanted the Arab League to confirm the Palestinians' "exclusive right" to negotiate the Holy City's future political status.

"We want the Arab League to reconfirm that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and that no one but the Palestinians will negotiate it politically," Dr. Shaath told journalists.

The Palestinians assert the reference to Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration

(Continued on page 7)

violates their Sept. 13 declaration of principles with Israel, which stipulates that the status of Jerusalem will be negotiated not later than the third year of interim rule.

Dr. Shaath described Monday's accord as an Israeli ploy to transform the issue of Palestinian political rights in Jerusalem into an issue of another country's religious rights.

"It seems like they (the Israelis) are turning all the rights in Jerusalem into Islamic religious rights and then awarding them to someone else," Dr. Shaath said.

"Who gave Israel the right to decide who has rights over Islamic institutions in Jerusalem? It is not up to them to decide on the matter," he said.

Dr. Shaath criticised the accord for drawing a distinction between religious and political rights in the Holy City.

"If we want to separate religious and political issues, we must take account of the fact that all Arabs have an interest in the holy places in Jerusalem — the Christian and Muslim," he said.

"Jerusalem is not just important for the Palestinians. But certainly it is not just important for the Jordanians. It is important for all the Arab Christians and Muslims."

(Continued on page 7)

Hrawi offers to curb Hizbollah

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi has promised to curb guerrillas in South Lebanon once Israel agreed to withdraw and said he would send 25,000 Lebanese soldiers to establish security in the area.

Urging Israel to set a timetable for pulling out of its South Lebanon buffer zone — the last Arab-Israeli battleground in the Middle East — Mr. Hrawi said he would respond with measures to ensure the security that Israel wants in the south.

"We repeat that Israel should commit itself to abide by (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 425 and prepare a schedule for the withdrawal of its troops from South Lebanon," Mr. Hrawi said.

"In response, we will ensure tranquility and security on the border that is internationally recognised in South Lebanon."

"I will then work on sending 25,000 Lebanese soldiers to the south and will ask the resistance to stop its operations," Mr. Hrawi told the BBC's Arabic service in an interview carried by Lebanon's National News Agency.

Guerrillas of the Hizbollah group daily harass Israel's 1,000 troops and their 3,000-strong local militia allies of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the so-called security zone.

"They have killed 10 Israeli soldiers this year and wound-

ed dozens.

Israel set up the 13-kilometre-wide buffer strip in 1985 as it withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon after its 1982 invasion to crush the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

It says the zone is to prevent guerrilla attacks on northern Israel, but it has been the scene of repeated military flare-ups between Israeli forces and Lebanese guerrillas, chiefly Hizbollah.

On Monday, Hizbollah fighters killed an Israeli officer and wounded 13 soldiers, pounding a military convoy with Sagger anti-tank missiles, mortars and machineguns.

A Hizbollah video of the battle on Lebanese television on Tuesday showed Sagger missiles scoring direct hits on at least two Israeli military vehicles and troops running for their lives.

Israel quickly vowed painful revenge and hinted that the attack was timed by Iran, which opposes Middle East peace moves, to mark the Washington summit in which Israel and Jordan ended a 46-year state of war.

The attack also came on the anniversary of a week-long Israeli blitz of South Lebanon that killed 150 people and made 300,000 flee their homes in retaliation for Hizbollah rocket barrages against northern Israeli settlements.



Elias Hrawi

Israel has repeatedly demanded that Lebanon disarm its 2,000 fighters and establish calm on the border for six months before it will negotiate on a peace accord with Lebanon.

But Beirut says the guerrillas have every right to resist foreign occupation and it will not curb them until Israel gives a commitment to withdraw.

"We need a commitment from Israel that it will withdraw and assurances that it will do so," Mr. Hrawi said.

Lebanon would move in step with Syria in the peace process, and would talk peace with Israel only when it had withdrawn its troops from the country, he added.

"This is our stand and first Israel should implement its withdrawal from Lebanon, and after that we can speak about a peace accord."

Briton, Iranian charged in missile scheme

ORLANDO (AP) — A Briton and an Iranian are facing federal charges of attempting to buy 54 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from undercover agents for illegal shipment to Iran.

The U.S. Army missiles and a dozen launchers were to be purchased for \$4.6 million and smuggled out of the country as commercial ice makers, according to court records.

The case is the latest in a series of undercover operations in Florida that have resulted in charges against Americans and foreigners for trying to buy and ship weapons illegally to Middle Eastern countries. The cases, dating back to the mid-1980s, have yielded mixed results in court.

Jamshid Shafii, 41, an Iranian living in Barnsley, England, and Paul Murphy, 42, of Orton Melbourne, England, were charged with conspiring to violate the U.S. Arms Export Control Act.

They were arrested Saturday at Orlando International Airport and a federal magistrate on Monday ordered both held without bail pending trial.

Mr. Shafii and Mr. Murphy flew to Orlando last week to inspect the missiles and the seller's company for the Iranian government, according to an affidavit filed in court by U.S. Customs Service Agent David Moore.

To further the ruse, Mr. Moore said he accompanied Murphy in a twin-engine plane with a Stinger missile and two spare parts for an F-14 fighter plane. They were supposedly flying to St. Maarten in the Netherlands Antilles. That's where Mr. Murphy was supposed to pick up the missiles for shipment to Cyprus and then to Iran, Mr. Moore said.

Agents told Mr. Murphy the plane had developed mechanical problems and had to return to Orlando after flying 24 kilometres offshore, Mr. Moore said.

The United States cancelled weapons shipments to Iran in 1979 after the revolution.



MEETING THE PRESS: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday answers a question as U.S. President Bill Clinton and

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin look on at their joint press conference in Washington (see page 7) (AFP photo)

3 U.S. congressmen laud Syria on drugs and Jews

DAMASCUS (AP) — Three U.S. legislators have praised President Hafez Al Assad for cracking down on the drug trade and letting Jews emigrate, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Syria has stepped up its anti-drug efforts in recent years as part of its attempts to improve ties with the United States following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Some lower-level officials in Washington have reportedly advocated removing Syria from the State Department's list of nations involved in international drug trafficking as a reward for its participation in the Middle East peace talks.

The English-language Syria Times said Wednesday that two congressmen from New York, Charles B. Rangel, chairman of the congressional narcotics abuse and control caucus, and Benjamin A. Gilman, sent Mr. Assad a letter thanking him for his efforts.

The letter from Mr. Rangel, a Democrat, and Mr. Gilman, a Republican, singled out accomplishments in combating illicit drugs production and trafficking at home and across the Lebanese border in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, where Syrian and Lebanese forces have destroyed marijuana and opium fields.

"We saw progress in your government's efforts to combat drugs, both with assistance in large-scale opium eradication in the Bekaa Valley, and enactment of some tough anti-narcotics domestic measures," the letter said, according to the government-sponsored newspaper.

"We appreciate your initiatives to further eradicate narcotics and trade and trafficking in these substances," it added.

East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley has long been one of the main growing and processing centres in the Middle East for cocaine, hashish and opium poppies, from which heroin is produced.

The valley has been under Damascus' control since 1976, when Syrian troops entered Lebanon in the early stages of that country's 15-year civil war, as peacekeepers.

Cyprus protests Denktash boycott of U.N. mediation

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus is to protest to the U.N. Security Council against the boycott of U.N.-sponsored peace talks by Turkish Cypriot leader Rafik Denktash, the government spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Yannis Cassoulides said the government also was protesting to UNESCO and other international organisations a reported new theft of icons from a church in the Turkish-occupied north of the island.

Mr. Denktash stated Monday he would refuse to accept the peace talks unless his breakaway Turkish Cypriot state were recognised, and the Court of the European Union withdrew its recent decision that ruled his state has no legal status.

The effect of the court decision was to make it much harder for northern Cyprus to export goods, mainly agricultural produce, because northern Cyprus' customs documents will now no longer be accepted by European importers.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since July 1974 when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third in the wake of a short-lived coup by supporters of Union with Greece. The breakaway state established in 1983 is recognised only by Ankara.

President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, on Tuesday reiterated a call to the Security Council to "adopt effective procedures which will at long last ensure implementation on its own resolutions."

The council resolutions call for the withdrawal of an estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers, and the return to the north of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees.

Cyprus also has been pressing for action by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to protect ancient sites and churches in the north from looting.

Mr. Cassoulides said a new protest to UNESCO was being made following a report in the Turkish Cypriot newspaper Kibris on Monday, of a new theft of 13 icons of the 18th and 19th centuries from the Church of the Archangel Michael in the Turkish-occupied town of Kyrenia.

3 members of Abu Nidal organisation plead guilty

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Three members of the Abu Nidal international group pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges in a case involving secret tape recording that captured the killing of a 16-year-old girl.

Tawfik Musa, 45, and brothers Saif Nijneh, 35, and Luie Nijneh, 30, pleaded guilty to one count each of racketeering before U.S. District Judge Donald Stroh. Prosecutors said they each face up to 20 years in prison and a \$350,000 fine.

U.S. Attorney Edward L. Dowd said the three admitted their involvement in a racketeering enterprise that included smuggling money and information, buying weapons, recruiting members, illegally detaining passports, obstructing investigation, and helping in the planning of attacks. Sentencing for the three was set for Oct. 21.

A co-defendant, Zein Isa, 30, of Missouri's St. Louis area, pleaded guilty to the alleged conspiracy to murder and murder conspiracy. His trial is set for Sept. 13.

The State Department has described the Abu Nidal organisation as the world's most dangerous group. The St. Louis case was the first indication that a "cell" was operating in the United States.

Under the original indictment, the defendants could have faced life in prison. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Eggert said prosecutors were pleased with the plea agreement, the terms of which were not released.

Mr. Eggert said a trial would have been expensive because of the security requirements and the costs of bringing in witnesses from abroad. He also said the case involved classified information, which the government would have had to make pub-

lic in a trial.

"We're very happy with the result," Mr. Eggert said. "The plus side in it is these guys have admitted membership in the Abu Nidal organisation and active participation in that terrorist organisation."

The four men were originally charged in a six-count indictment unsealed in April 1992 that accused them of plotting to kill Jews, blow up the Israeli embassy in Washington and kill anyone who could expose the plots.

The death of Palestinian "Tina" Isa in 1989 at the St. Louis apartment was the only slaying carried out.

Agents investigating whether Mr. Zein Isa was involved with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had bugged his apartment and captured the girl's death of tape. On the chilling seven-minute recording, Isa shouted in Arabic, "die quickly die, my daughter, die" as she stabbed her.

The girl's mother, Maria Isa, 50, held the girl down. She also was convicted and sentenced to death but the Missouri supreme court overturned her sentence last year and she is awaiting a rehearing.

At their murder trial, prosecutors said the Isa's killed their youngest daughter for turning her back on Palestinian ways and becoming too Americanised.

But the federal charges were unsealed last year. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agent James Nelson said Zein Isa and the others conspired to murder Tina to silence her.

The FBI has described Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, as the leader of a Palestinian group responsible for more than 90 attacks in 20 countries since it was formed in 1974.

Afghans set assembly poll for Oct. 23

ISLAMABAD (R) — A conference in Afghanistan has set Oct. 23 to elect a new government leadership for the war-ravaged country, the official Kabul Radio said on Tuesday.

It said the conference in the western city of Herat, also attended by embattled President Burhanuddin Rabbani, decided on Monday to hold a traditional Loya Jirga — or grand assembly — on Oct. 23 to "elect the country's leadership."

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, did not explain whether the grand assembly, likely to be held in the capital Kabul, would elect only a president or a prime minister as well.

By Samir F. Ghaffar
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — The formal end of Jordanian-Israeli enmity has left Syria as the last major player still out in the cold in the Middle East peace talks.

President Hafez Al Assad seems unruffled by the collapse of Arab coordination, and is sticking to the same condition with which he entered the U.S.-brokered talks nearly three years ago: Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace.

In Arab parlance, that means no peace deals without total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory captured in the 1967 war.

"We want peace as we imagine it," Mr. Assad told a news conference Sunday after meeting President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab state to make peace with Israel.

On Monday, Jordan and Israel signed a non-belligerence pact at the White House. Seven weeks earlier,

Syria can wait — for now

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an autonomy agreement for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In an unusual move, Syrian television wired Mr. Rabin's and King Hussein's speeches Monday in full, with Arabic subtitles. Until recently, Syria's state-run stations did not show Israeli leaders and referred to them as "the enemy."

Syria insists on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel seized in the 1967 war, but Mr. Assad has not spelled out what he would offer in return.

Israel has said it is willing to give up land for peace. But Mr. Rabin has not committed his government to total withdrawal from the strategic plateau.

Mohammad Salman, the Syrian information minister, said in a recent newspaper article that "Syria will stick to its rights and will not give up any part of its land regardless of the Israeli methods and threats."

Syria can afford to wait for a better deal, but not for too long.

With a 400,000-member army, Syria can defend its territory. But the collapse of the Soviet Union, its main military and economic backer for decades, and the breakdown of Arab unity since the 1991 Gulf war "makes it stupid to engage in a war with Israel" to regain the Golan, said Dr. Suhail Zakkar, a professor of Islamic history at the University of Damascus.

Mr. Rabin and President Clinton are expected to turn inward next year as they prepare for reelection campaigns in 1996. Mr. Rabin's right-wing opponents oppose concessions to Syria.

Syria needs international aid, curtailed for years by U.S. accusations that Damascus sponsored "international terrorism."

However, Mr. Assad's personal standing remains strong domestically, and Syria has an effective bargaining chip in guerrillas in South Lebanon.

Iran police order satellite dishes removed

TEHRAN (R) — Police have ordered several apartment complexes in a fashionable district of Tehran to remove satellite dish antennas used to watch foreign television programmes, residents and newspapers said.

The daily Abrar said police had served notice with management of 15 complexes in Shahra-e Qods (Jerusalem township) to remove the antennas — denounced by some Iranian leaders as a conduit of Western "corruption" — by Monday.

It was the first police action reported against using satellite dishes in Tehran where parliament is yet to debate a bill presented for banning the antennas.

Thousands of households, bored by state television programmes, have bought the antennas which are smuggled into Iran and cost several hundred dollars apiece.

Western films and music shows are popular in the more affluent north Tehran, while Asian entertainment programmes are mostly watched in the rest of the capital.

Various officials had hinted at a crackdown on dishes recently but more antennas sprouted on rooftops, many without any camouflage, since President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last month that using them as all right pending parliament's decision.

Abrar said police were taking no action yet about dishes in other neighbourhoods or against houses and villas in Shahra-e Qods, a district in western Tehran which is inhabited mainly by professionals and well-to-do families.

But it quoted an unnamed police official as saying they will get around to those houses, too.

A resident of Shahra-e Qods — which is known to many as Shahra-e Gharb (west township), its name before the 1979 Islamic revolution — said he had removed his dish antenna after the police order.

He said he shared the device with 20 other families who had each paid 700,000 rials (\$300 at the open market rate) for it.

He said it appeared that other groups in the apartments who shared dishes installed on the rooftops were removing them, but those families who had fitted individual antennas in their balconies were holding on to them for now.

"Today we may see a dish antenna and remove it, but tomorrow there will be antennas on the market no bigger than the palm of a hand," Abrar quoted a Tehran resident as saying.

That view is shared by some people who, though opposed to the cultural effect of satellite television, say prohibition is no solution because technological advance would make a ban impossible to enforce.

But other officials take the opposite view.

"Satellite dishes should be banned even if buying one becomes as easy as having a loaf of bread," head of state radio and television Ali Larijani said this month.

JORDAN TELEVISION

77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Taratara

18:30 News in French

18:45 Mondes Fantastiques Des Animaux

19:00 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

21:10 Murder She Wrote

22:00 News in English

22:30 "Movie of the Week: 'Mrs. Aris Goes to Paris'"

23:10 The Munters Today

PRAYER TIMES

04:14 Fajr

05:40 Sunrise

12:40 Dhuhr

16:23 Asr

19:42 Maghrib

21:11 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sw. Mich. Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 620785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Trinitarian Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654032

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be easterly moderate and seas calm.

Received by telephone

min./max. temp.

Amman 18/28

Aqaba 25/37

Deirats 17/29

Jordan Valley 23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 29, Aqaba 38, Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827195

Dr. Bassam Karadsheh 759200

Dr. Ahmad Khamees 747684

Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 883880

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 718336

Al Asma pharmacy 637025

Nairoh pharmacy 623672

Al Salan pharmacy 636739

Yasoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637640

Najib pharmacy 947632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shakin 995710

Khalifeh pharmacy 982417

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 695390

Public Security Department 838321

Hotel Complaints 602800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 877111

Complaints 877111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 623101

Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 656381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32

Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 644251/6

Akshah Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mafias, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4

Shamsani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musabir Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdell 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdell 664164/6

Isafan, Al-Mubajra 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafia 775111/26

Army, Marika 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)775555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)

08:00 Beirut (add) (RJ)

11:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

12:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

12:35 Paris (RJ)

13:00 Athens (RJ)

13:15 London (RJ)

13:45 Cairo (RJ)

14:00 Toronto (RJ)

14:15 Laraca (RJ)

14:30 Bahrain (RJ)

15:00 Doha (RJ)

15:15 Jeddah (RJ)

15:30 Muscat (RJ)

15:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

16:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

16:30 Rome (RJ)

16:50 Laraca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:10 Sharjah (AH)

13:30 Abu Dhabi (GP)

13:35 Munich (DE)

14:00 Riyadh (SV)

20:15 Sanaa (MS)

21:15 Cairo (MS)

21:15 Beirut (ME)

21:30 Dubai (EK)

22:30 Istanbul (TK)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)

08:00 Beirut (add) (RJ)

11:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

12:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

12:35 Paris (RJ)

13:00 Athens (RJ)

13:15 London (RJ)

13:45 Cairo (RJ)

14:00 Toronto (RJ)

14:15 Laraca (RJ)

14:30 Bahrain (RJ)

15:00 Doha (RJ)

15:15 Jeddah (RJ)

15:30 Muscat (RJ)

15:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

16:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

16:30 Rome (RJ)

16:50 Laraca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Sharjah (AH)

06:45 Abu Dhabi (GP)

06:50 Munich (DE)

07:15 Riyadh (SV)

20:15 Sanaa (MS)

21:15 Cairo (MS)

21:15 Beirut (ME)

21:30 Dubai (EK)

22:30 Istanbul (TK)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

RIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/500

Banana 600/500

Banana (Munassar) 620

Cabbage 140/180

Carrot 240/160

Cauliflower 180/100

Cucumber (large) 100/150

Cucumber (small) 200/120

Eggplant 700/500

Figs 500/300

Garlic 800/600

Onion 350/220

Onion (dry) 450/350

Marrow (large) 150/100

Marrow (small) 300/200

Mushroom 140/70

Onion 950/650

Orange 500/300

Onion (dry) 240/160

Sweet Melon 160/80

Pepper (hot) 240/200

Pepper (sweet) 240/200

Potato 420/300

Potato 700/500

Tomato 120/60

String beans 370/240

Watermelon 120/70



STUDENTS HONOURED: Minister of Culture Jumaa Hamad Wednesday distributes awards to 21 Jordanian children who won in a competition for

talented children organised by the National Centre for Culture in Egypt. The children sent in contributions in drawing, poetry and writing.



Civil Defence Department Director General Lt. Gen. Afif Ghoul and Austrian government grant director

Albert Harlo inspect newly delivered equipment at CDD Headquarters in Amman (Photo by Rana Hussein)

CDD receives rescue vehicles from government of Austria

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday took delivery of the rest of the new rescue equipment which was provided as part of a grant provided by the Austrian government to Jordan.

The grant of JD125 million was part of a protocol signed between the two governments that helped in adding new equipment to the CDD, according to Lieutenant General Afif Ghoul, director general of the CDD.

Lt. Ghoul said the new equipment includes four

ambulances, three large water tankers, an expanded ambulance with a nine-patient capacity, and nine snow plows, six of them attached to fire engines.

"This grant which was the effort of the Austrian government was a great help to our department," Lt. Gen. Ghoul said.

The grant was the effort of His Majesty King Hussein and the understanding and support of the Austrian government," he added.

Albert Harlo, director of the Austrian grant, said that it was a great pleasure for the Austrian government to support the CDD in this manner,

especially with the snow plows which he saw as a great necessity to Jordan.

"In the past two years, Jordan suffered heavy snow and life was paralysed in the Kingdom, and we felt that there is a need for the snow plows," Mr. Harlo said.

"Hopefully with the equipment we would have helped the Jordanian government function normally during inclement weather," he added.

In March of this year, the CDD received part of the equipment which was displayed at an exhibition during a conference on civil protection.

Britain donates to CARE project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe Wednesday donated £6,500 to the country director of CARE International, Joanna Hall, in support of CARE's project with the Ma'an Women's Cooperative Society to produce home-made preserved foods.

The project was initiated in February this year and the 25 women of the Ma'an cooperative have so far produced apricot jam, pickled cucum-

bers, dried and green mulukhiyah and jars of salad.

The society is moving to a new location in order to expand production, according to the CARE director.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the ambassador said that the donation reflected the British government's concern to contribute to development schemes in local communities in Jordan.

The project in Ma'an is carried out in one of the poorest areas, and it entails

active women's participation, said the ambassador.

In presenting the donation to the CARE director, Mr. Hinchcliffe expressed appreciation of CARE's activities and its services in Jordan.

Founded in the early 1950s CARE has been providing financial and in-kind assistance towards implementing income-generating and community-related projects in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development.

Opposition parties demand change in 'one-sided' coverage of peace talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eight opposition parties Wednesday accused the government of pushing the country back into the era of martial law when opposing points of view were constantly suppressed.

In a memorandum sent to the information minister, the parties, which included the Islamic Action Front and other leftists and pan-Arabist opposition groups, expressed "discontent" with the government for having Jordan Television and Radio suppress their views which oppose the latest developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. They said the government has also exercised indirect pressure on the press which they said also failed to pass their positions on to the people.

"This organised behaviour sheds doubts on the democratic transformation process and leads to division in the national front, weakens the national and regional role of Jordan and renders the country an easy prey to the

American-Zionist-Israeli alliance," the parties charged in the memorandum which followed more than a week of fiery statements that denounced the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks.

The opposition groups, which have been at the forefront of the thus far low profile and "symbolic" opposition to the talks, said they do not question the right of the government to propagate its position since it is the party conducting the negotiations with Israel. But they attempted to discredit its claim that its position represents that of all Jordanians.

"Duty requires that the government stops turning its back to the national Jordanian institutions, which, represented by the political parties and all social and professional organisations, voiced their stand on the process of negotiations between Jordan and Israel," the opposition eight said.

Stressing that Jordan belongs to all and not just to the government, the opposition groups said they have made sacrifices for serving the interests of Jordan and "continue to seek to contribute to

building it and (protecting) its independence and sovereignty."

"But all this seems to be worth nothing with the government which insists to replace the people and their national and legislative institutions in deciding the present and the future of the country," charged the parties, saying they still "have hope" the minister of information will rectify this situation in the interest of the country, national unity and democracy.

The parties, which declared July 25, the day when His Majesty King Hussein held his first public meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a day of national mourning, have thus far failed to present any tangible evidence to their claim that the majority of Jordanians are opposed to the peace talks.

On Monday and Tuesday when King Hussein and Mr. Rabin addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress, there were no signs of the public anger against the talks the opposition claimed existed among the people.

The only anti-talks activity

that took place in the capital or in other cities of the Kingdom so far was a one hour sit-in in downtown Amman Monday that was attended by about 200 people who represented the opposition eight.

A business-as-usual state of affairs prevailed in the Kingdom since the first public bilateral Israeli-Jordanian talks were held in Wadi Araba on July 18 and the only opposition came in the form of statements by the opposition parties.

AP adds: About 300 students Wednesday staged a sit-in and burned the Israeli flag in protest against the signing of a document ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel.

The protest at the University of Jordan was organised by Muslim fundamentalists who oppose a negotiated settlement with Israel and advocate the elimination of the Jewish state.

It was the largest anti-peace rally since Monday, when King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met for the first time publicly and signed a U.S.-blessed document en-

ding 46 years of hostility and setting the ground for a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

The students, who held aloft a banner with verses from the Koran, accused the government of succumbing to "American and Zionist pressures and surrendering Arab and Muslim rights in Palestine and Jordan to the Jewish enemy."

Addressing the rally, Majdi Smadi, chairman of the Muslim fundamentalist-dominated student council, also accused the government of "hiding facts relating to the negotiations."

"We denounce the American-brokered peace project," the man told the crowd through a bullhorn. "We call upon Jordanian people to resist the normalisation (of relations) with the Jewish state."

"We oppose our flag flying side-by-side with the Israeli flag and our leaders shaking hands with our enemies," he said in a direct reference to King Hussein's meeting with Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Smadi demanded that Jordan withdraw immediately from the peace process.

Stepping into 'calligraphic landscapes'

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Balka Art Gallery in Fuheis, a restored building itself, is hosting a different sort of "construction," that of Princess Wijdan Ali's oils "Calligraphic landscapes."

The artist, who wants to be called simply Wijdan, explains in a poised manner why she calls her art landscapes.

"I see more than letters in my representations. I see, for example a moon or a tree," she says pointing to several canvases. "Perhaps it is only me who sees them," she adds with a glint of smile in her luminous eyes.

The landscapes, at first sight calligraphic renditions of letters, are indeed more than that. A new moon, an oasis, a twin tree trunk or a minaret or tower can be perceived if the imagination is left free.

A yellow sun brightens things up in most paintings, looking like a candle lit on the eve of a holiday in one having a dark blue background.

If the letters carry religious symbolism (forming religious phrases), they also hold one in awe by their delicacy which almost assumes femininity especially when compared to the bold knife strokes of the background oil.

Turquoise, Anil Blue, pale mustard yellow or a stronger orange shade are the colours used for the

letters. The background ranges from the familiar Wijdan intense yellow to white and ivory, perfectly accommodating the calligraphic works and highlighted by the simply yet rich and sumptuous ivory coloured frames.

Dots of striking colour here and there, part of the Arabic letters, bring movement and life to the otherwise static works whose only dynamic is provided by juxtaposition which helps complete meanings. Most paintings come in two or three, the frames, carrying fragments of letters, or letters that are completed by the adjacent frame.

Innovative and eliciting movement and a search for meanings.

Another group of paintings, depicting more conventional landscapes, uses different techniques to create beautiful sunsets, a towered island, a powerful forest, barren mountains or human settlement, complete with domed buildings and trees and providing a panoramic view in perspective.

The strokes of the knife and the slicing of the oil create movement and depth, while at times, the combination of colours and shapes creates vastness and wildness for faraway places roamed by seafarers or lovers of the desert.

Bolder colours enliven the frames and make the human presence, although invisible, perceivable. You



Part of a 'calligraphic landscape' by Wijdan

expect a swimmer to appear in the sea, a tree chopper in the forest, a camel or a mirage in the sunset desert or a face in the window of a house.

Strong impressions — from violence (imagine the sea in storm or the wildlife in the forest) to mellowness (the stillness and heat of the burning desert and the comfort of one's living room) — are stirred in the viewer by the generous colours and the brilliant execution of the artist.

The exhibition, which opens today, July 28, will be on until Aug. 28.

An anthology of Flamenco: Standing room only for Carmen Linares

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time during the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, the Artemis Theatre Tuesday was standing room only for the performance of Carmen Linares. Tickets were sold out and the crowds were estimated at 1,200 people — some sitting on the dusty floor, others standing on both sides of the theatre awaiting Spain's most gifted Flamenco vocalist accompanied by her song-dance group.

Carmen Linares, 43, is the heiress of Flamenco art and has occupied a privileged place among her contemporaries.

Because of her knowledge in the difficult art of Flamenco, and the anthology of her repertoire, it can be said that her audiences witness an encyclopaedic singer.

Born Carmen Pacheco Rodriguez, she takes her name from the town of Linares, the least known and developed region in Andalusia. She spent only the first ten years in her hometown, then she moved to Madrid with her parents.

"Singing was my hobby since childhood, but I gained my first professional engagement when I was 13," Ms. Linares told the Jordan Times. "I never studied anything related to music or dancing. In fact, I

relied on listening to the works of the greatest musicians to train my ears and to learn from them also. Singing is inherited in Spain... you may see the son, his father, and grandfather singing."

Accompanied by two guitarists, Carmen sang several Spanish songs Monday night. "In the last few years, I have been singing with these two guitarists, and sometimes with a group of dancers," said Ms. Linares. "But in my recent debut CD, in which I sing the poems of Garcia Lorca, the greatest Spanish poet ever known and who died during the civil war, I made use of some new musical instruments, such as: violin and nay."

Ms. Linares thinks that her performance outside Spain is not as effective as in her country. "Flamenco has many expressions that cannot be understood by non-Spanish people. So, when I perform abroad, the audience keeps silent, and when I come to an end, they applaud warmly. Only then I understand that I reached their hearts and feelings," said Ms. Linares.

Among many other dances, Flamenco is considered the most renowned Spain. Its music and foot-tapping have a great effect on people, enabling it to cross borders. Because Arabs stayed in Spain for 800 years, Flamenco is



Juan Andres Maya

stamped with some Arab flavour, and it seems that this flavour was tasted by Monday's audience.

As soon as Juan Andres Maya, 22, ended his first Flamenco dance, he was applauded with cries of "Ole" and "Bravo."

Mr. Maya's first performance was at the age of 10, and when he was 13, he

presented another performance in Egypt. Aiming at proficiency, Mr. Maya had a professor of Flamenco, and another one for classical dance that has some connection with Flamenco.

Mr. Maya loved flamenco since childhood. He also loved to learn anything related to it. "It has a



Photos by Yousef Al 'Alain

Carmen Linares

wide background. The hand expressions come from Indian origin, while the corporal expressions vary. Flamenco is like a collection of dances in one dance, and each of these expressions has a particular meaning," said Mr. Maya.

The young artist travelled extensively to introduce his everywhere-

welcomed performances. His solo dancing, he said, helps him earn an excellent living, especially in summer when he is used to having stressed programmes.

It was an unbelievable night culminating in a thunderous standing ovation with resounding cries of "Ole" and "Bravo."

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION FOR TENDERS CENTRAL TENDER NO. (163/93)

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan invites interested experienced contractors to tender for the Rehabilitation and Upgrading of the King Abdullah Canal (KAC); the work comprises:

1. Reshaping of the canal embankment
2. Construction of new check structure and various annexed structures
3. Repair of concrete canal lining
4. Rehabilitation of existing structures
5. Cleaning of canal and structures
6. Miscellaneous other works as drains, fence, etc.
7. Supply and repair radial gates and hoisting gear.

JVA intends to finance the construction out of the proceeds of a loan granted for rehabilitation of KAC by the European Investment Bank.

Tenders will be accepted from construction contractors from Jordan, the EC member countries and countries in which the EIB raises its funds, or a joint venture. Contractors from Jordan must be classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in the first grade in the field of water and sewerage and/or structures.

Tender documents can be consulted as of July 30, 1994, at:

**The Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
King Hussein Street
P.O.Box 1220 Amman Jordan.
Fax number: 606751**

can be purchased at the same address against a non-refundable remittance of JD750.

Firms which bought the tender documents in connection with the 1st publication in October 1993 may collect a copy of the tender documentation free of charge.

Site visit is arranged to take place on Monday, Aug. 15, 1994.

Pretender conference will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at the conference hall, 1st floor, Ministry of Water and Irrigation at 10.00 a.m.

Tender shall be submitted to the above address not later than 12:00 local time, on Saturday Sept. 17, 1994.

**Eng. Basheer al Jaghbeer
Chairman, Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate**

Hata plots comeback

TOKYO (R) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata is plotting a comeback, vowing to form a large and unified opposition party by September to crush what he calls the "irresponsible" Socialist-conservative government.

"There is this ground swell of demand from southerner (opposition) lawmakers to form an enlarged party among the former ruling coalition," Mr. Hata told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday. "We must do this by September."

Mr. Hata was forced to resign last month under a combined threat from the Socialists and the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to pass a no-confidence motion.

Unlike most recent Japanese prime ministers, he was not brought down by a corruption scandal or failure to push through reforms. He fell solely because his government lacked a working majority.

"My government enjoyed a 60 per cent support rate in polls immediately before we resigned," Mr. Hata said. "What about the (Tomichi) Murayama government? Barely 30 per cent."

"If there were an election now, we certainly would win."

He called Mr. Murayama's government the product of an "irresponsible" compromise between the Socialist left and the hardline right in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"The LDP just wanted to come back to power at any cost so they swallowed the Socialist Party in its entirety, whatever the contradictions," Mr. Hata said.

"There is this huge gap in logic in that government," he said. "The scandal-ridden LDP was toppled by a reformist coalition last August, after 38 years of unbroken rule. That original coalition included the Socialists but they walked out in April, the day Mr. Hata was named prime minister."

Following LDP's resignation, Mr. Hata's party swallowed its pride and did the unthinkable — forging an alliance with the Socialists, its bitter cold war adversaries.

Mr. Murayama, who became Japan's first Socialist prime minister since the immediate post-World War II period, was quick to return the favour. Last week he surprised the nation by scrapping his party's traditional opposition to the military and to the U.S.-Japan security treaty.

While Mr. Murayama was making headlines this dismissal of a basic tenet of his party, Mr. Hata quietly met other key opposition figures to plan the merger of seven opposition parties — all except the Communists.

The proposed new party would hold at least 180 seats in the lower house, the decisive chamber of parliament, Mr. Hata said.

Mr. Hata's party colleague and top strategist, Ichiro Ozawa, believes it could even overtake the LDP's current strength of 200 and emerge as the largest single bloc in parliament.

"Yes, I met with (ex-premiers) Mr. Kaifu and Mr. Hosokawa and we agreed to get this new party going," Mr. Hata said. "But the important thing is not who is leading the moves now or who would become party head, it's more of a grassroots thing."

Commentators said Mr. Hata remains the most viable opposition candidate as next premier.

In a recent commentary, the daily Asahi Shimbun said Morihiro Hosokawa had revealed his political immaturity by abandoning the premiership in April over a loans scandal.

Asahi said ex-LDP Premier Toshiki Kaifu was discredited because of his unsuccessful revolt against the LDP leadership. In the crucial parliamentary vote for premier on June 30, he ran on a ticket backed by Mr. Hata's coalition but failed to trigger a mass defection from the LDP.

Asked if he would make a comeback as prime minister, Mr. Hata replied by saying he was aware of public and media opinion. "I do feel responsible."

Meanwhile, a private advisory panel is to recommend cutting Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) over the next ten years, an official said Tuesday.

A 10-member panel on defence problems is finishing a report for Mr. Murayama.

Haiti to hold new elections; U.S. refuses to recognise

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Haiti's military-backed government said Tuesday that it would begin new elections in November, but U.S. officials said a vote would not defuse the regime's standoff with the United States.

"These elections would not be recognised by the international community," U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger told a news briefing. A council representing Haiti's military-backed government Tuesday began a 10-day series of meetings with Haitian political parties on the organisation of presidential elections.

"We think that, the first week in November, the first round of elections will take place," council President Baltazar Line Saintphar told reporters after the meetings.

A vote later this year is regarded as a key component of the military junta's strategy for avoiding a U.S.-led invasion aimed at returning exiled President Jean-

Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a 1991 coup.

"This is the best way to end the crisis — let the people talk and find new leaders," a senior official of Haiti's military-backed regime said.

According to ABC News poll results released Tuesday, most Americans would not support an invasion of Haiti for the sole purpose of restoring democracy, though most would support such an action to stop the flow of Haitian boat people coming to the United States.

That number has dropped markedly over the past two weeks. Compared to early July, when well over 1,000 Haitian boat people were intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard each day, only 31 were picked up Monday.

According to the poll, conducted for a documentary to air Wednesday night, 39 per cent of Americans would support an invasion solely to restore democracy, while 56 per cent said they would support an action to end the flow

of refugees.

Also Wednesday, Mr. Aristide said that a "date certain" must be for his return to Haiti and for the departure of the de facto military leaders of the Caribbean nation.

"The wait for democracy must not endure any longer," Mr. Aristide said in a statement released in Washington. "A date certain for my return and for the departure of coup leaders must be set in order to sustain the hope of the nation that democracy will be restored."

An agenda for the election planning distributed by the council said the parties would discuss presidential, parliamentary and local votes, but Mr. Line Saintphar did not specifically mention a presidential contest during his meeting with reporters.

Mr. Line Saintphar said politicians loyal to Mr. Aristide had been invited to participate in the election planning but had not yet responded.

China woos Dalai Lama

BEIJING (R) — China has pledged to bring prosperity to Tibet and renewed an offer to allow its exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to return to the Himalayan region if he renounces calls for independence.

Premier Li Peng, addressing a major Communist Party conference on Tibet, said he wanted to raise the region's annual economic growth by about 10 per cent and double its 1993 gross national product by 2000, the official media said Wednesday.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, warning of continuing "factors of instability" in Tibet, said a placid political environment there was "crucial to the success of reforms, development and stability throughout the country."

Tibet has been periodically shaken by violent anti-Chinese protests since the 1950s. Hundreds of people, including monks and nuns, have been jailed and the situation has become a focus of Western concerns over China's human rights policies.

Mr. Jiang, who is also China's president, attacked the Dalai Lama as a political "splitist" whose interest was dividing China, rather than promoting Tibet's prosperity. "The differences between us and the Dalai clique are not a question of whether to

believe in a religion or whether to exercise autonomy, but an issue of safeguarding our motherland's unification and opposing secessionism," he said.

"Our attitude regarding the Dalai Lama is that so long as he abandons his idea of Tibetan independence and ceases his attempts to split the motherland, he is welcome to come back at any time."

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Beijing, which keeps large numbers of troops in Tibet and says the region has been part of China for centuries.

The Dalai Lama, who has said he would accept broad Tibetan autonomy within Chinese rule, has repeatedly rejected similar earlier overtures from Beijing.

Analysts said the tempered welcome for the Dalai Lama has long been official policy. "The policy of welcoming home the Dalai is nothing new but it is being reiterated at a high level," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

Mr. Jiang warned China would not tolerate the pursuit of independence in Tibet, even in disguised forms.

"Whoever undermines unity among the people of ethnic groups or engages in secessionist activities will certainly be opposed resolutely by the entire Chinese people," he said.

Cuba slams U.S. over comments on boat sinking

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's First Deputy President Raul Castro furiously attacked the United States Tuesday for comments condemning an incident in which 32 Cubans drowned when a tugboat they stole to leave the island sank.

Cuban authorities have stressed that the sinking of the boat July 12 after a collision with a pursuing government vessel was accidental and that every effort was made to save lives, countering suggestions the sinking was deliberate.

"We reject with all energy the hypocritical and lying anti-Cuban campaign orchestrated around this incident and the rude interference in our country's internal affairs by the United States or any other country," said Raul Castro.

His attack on the United States occupied a considerable part of his 45-minute speech to mark the anniversary of the 1953 assault on a military barracks that is viewed as the prelude to Cuba's 1959 revolution.

Raul Castro, 63, is Cuban President Fidel Castro's designated successor and has been his right-hand man since fighting alongside the Cuban leader in the guerrilla war that led to the revolution.

President Fidel Castro, 67, who in an unusual move chose not to make the annual July 26 address, was sitting in the front row of the audience.

Raul Castro charged in the speech delivered on the Isle of Youth that the "enraged campaign around the sad incident of the tugboat involves a great danger for Cuba at a time when the United States is intervening at any point on the globe on similar pretexts."

He was referring to suggestions in the United States that the tugboat was deliberately sunk July 12 by government vessels pursuing it.

President Bill Clinton, speaking before Cuban au-

thorities gave full details of the events, said on July 18 that the incident was "an example of Cuban brutality."

Raul Castro, who is also second secretary of the ruling Communist Party and United States administration and "its permanent attitude of aggression towards our country" should be first to be accused over the tugboat deaths.

This was a reiteration of Cuba's stance that U.S. immigration policy is to blame for the steady trickle of people who try to leave the island illegally, often using fragile rafts to make the 90-mile (150 km) crossing of the Strait of Florida.

Havana charges that Washington encourages illegal exits by restricting the number of visas it grants while at the same time allowing Cubans who left the island illegally to stay in the United States.

Cuban authorities have said the tugboat, stolen by a group of 63 Cubans from Havana Port, sank after colliding accidentally with one of three Transport Ministry tugboats that tried to intercept it. Only 31 people were rescued in the worst disaster involving Cubans trying to leave the island illegally.

In Washington, more than 100 demonstrators marched outside of Cuba's diplomatic mission here Tuesday to demand an international probe into the sinking of the tugboat.

Twelve people who chained themselves to gates of the Cuban interest section were arrested for disorderly conduct, including Armando Valladares, a former Cuban political prisoner and former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, police said.

Dressed in black, protestors prayed and carried white coffins in memory of the men, women and children who drowned.

S. Africa's national party denies quitting cabinet

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's former ruling National Party Wednesday denied a report that some of its parliamentarians wanted the party to quit the national unity government led by Nelson Mandela.

Party spokesman Fanus Schoeman said the party, the reformed architect of apartheid which held power for four decades until the April all-race elections, still wanted to play an important part in Mr. Mandela's African National Congress-led government.

Johannesburg's Star newspaper Wednesday quoted an unidentified National Party member of parliament as saying the honeymoon with the new government was over.

There is a debate in the party on how long we should be in the (government of national unity) GNU," the paper quoted the legislator as saying.

But Mr. Schoeman denied this. "We still intend to play an important and constructive role in the government of national unity. We are not considering to leave. What you are hearing is pure speculation," he told Reuters.

Under South Africa's new constitution, the country will be ruled by a coalition government for the next five years. The National Party has six cabinet posts, the Inkatha Freedom Party three and the ANC 18.

Asked whether there were any dissenting voices within the National Party on its role in the government, Mr. Schoeman said: "Not that I am aware of. We have never had a caucus meeting since the end of June. We will have one next week before the beginning of the (Aug. 1) parliamentary session."

Whitewater hearing yields little but political heat

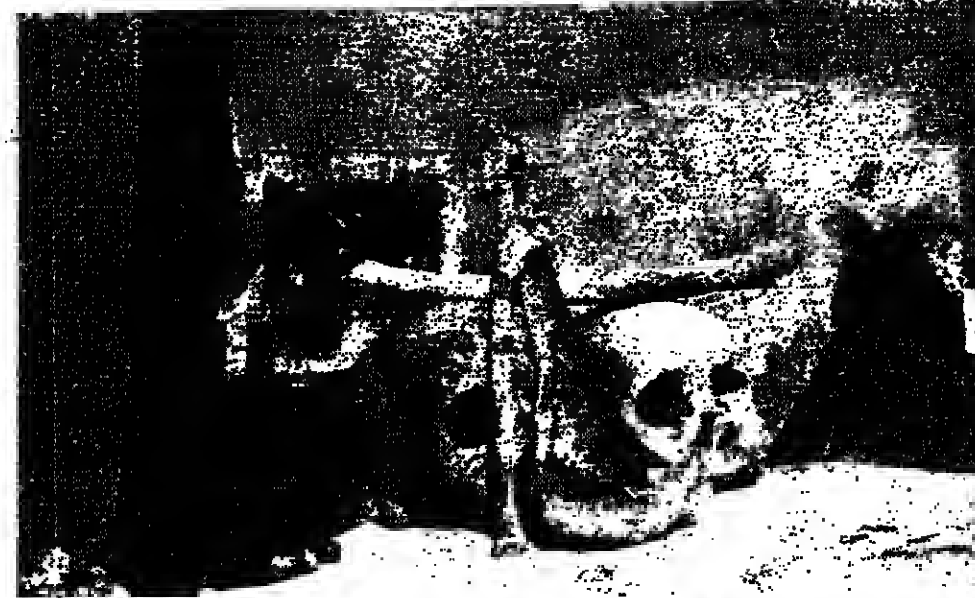
WASHINGTON (R) — The first day of congressional hearings on the Whitewater affair has yielded no bombshells but plenty of political heat.

Veteran Washington insider Lloyd Cutler, presidential counsel and point man on the affair that has been dogging President Bill Clinton, testified Tuesday that White House aides had broken no ethical laws but had fallen short of the standards required.

In a day-long televised appearance before the House of Representatives Banking Committee, Mr. Cutler defended President Clinton against Republican charges of wrongdoing.

At issue were more than 20 contacts between White House aides and treasury officials over an investigation of the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Institution whose head, James McDougal, and his life were partners of Bill and Hillary Clinton in a failed vacation development known as Whitewater in Arkansas more than a decade ago.

Mr. Cutler reported on his own month-long investigation, setting the stage for committee questioning of the



A Haitian boy peers around a tomb over human skulls and bones at the municipal cemetery in Port Au Prince. Many graves have been robbed of brass, jewelry and gold teeth since the U.N. embargo was put in effect against Haiti (AFP photo)

Bomb caused Panama crash-investigators

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panamanian investigators said Tuesday a bomb caused the crash of a commuter plane last week that killed 21 people, most of them Jewish passengers, but that it was not clear who placed it in the aircraft.

"We have determined the cause of the crash. We have determined it was an explosive placed within the plane's cabin," Javier Chiergo, the assistant director of Panama's Judicial Police, told reporters.

"We do not know what kind of explosive artifact we are talking about, but we do know it (was) a big-

intensity, low-heat explosive," Mr. Chiergo said.

Carlos Augusto Herrera, an investigator for Panama's Justice Ministry, said the government could not yet say who planted the bomb, which caused the plane to explode in midair shortly after take-off last Tuesday from the Atlantic port city of Colon.

"We are gathering evidence, but we can't speculate who is behind this right now," Mr. Herrera said, speaking at a press conference with Mr. Chiergo.

The announcement followed a week of investigation conducted amid speculation

that the bomb was the work of either anti-Jewish Islamic groups or Colombian drug traffickers.

Jewish leaders in Panama have said they believe Islamic groups were responsible for the crash, which killed several prominent local Jewish businessmen.

An Islamic group in Lebanon called Followers Of God has claimed responsibility for both the plane crash and the bombing last week of a Jewish community centre in Argentina. The death toll from the bombing in Argentina could reach 100, Jewish leaders there have said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) and the President of Estonia Lennart Meri (left) exchange the signed documents in the Kremlin. The main items of the agreement are the rights of Russian military pensioners, which should be respected equally with those of Estonian citizens, and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia by Aug. 31 (AFP photo)

Yeltsin: Estonia talks were toughest

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday that his five-hour talks on Russia troop withdrawals with Estonian leader Lennart Meri were "very difficult" and the longest he had held with any president.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking to reporters at Moscow Airport before leaving on a three-day trip to Siberia, was explaining the agreement he reached with Mr. Meri Tuesday to pull out Russian troops by the end of August.

"It was a difficult conversation, a very difficult conversation," Mr. Yeltsin said. "We spent five hours — I haven't devoted that much time to any other president."

The Russian president said he had threatened at one point to leave the troops in Estonia indefinitely unless

neighbours, all of which won independence from Moscow in 1991.

"Russia adopted a very tough position," Mr. Yeltsin said. But he hinted that he had come under heavy pressure from the West to agree on a withdrawal, saying he had received letters from President Bill Clinton and Chancellor Helmut Kohl urging a speedy pullout.

"Estonia succeeded in waking up the West," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Moscow has already withdrawn its troops from Lithuania and promised to pull out from Latvia by the end of August. This left the estimated 2,000 troops in Estonia as the major obstacle to an improvement in rela-

tions with Russia's Baltic neighbours, all of which won independence from Moscow in 1991.

Full details of the agreement on pensioners' rights were not available but Estonian officials in the capital Tallinn told journalists Mr. Meri had made no major concessions to Mr. Yeltsin.

They said no changes in Estonian law would be required and only people born before 1930 — now aged 64 or over — would be considered pensioners.

The estimated 9,000 retired Russian officers in Estonia have been at the centre of a wider disagreement over the status of the much larger Russian-speaking minority there, viewed by many Estonians as occupiers.

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Dying 'dead' father fails to melt judge's heart

HONG KONG (R) — An illegal immigrant who sought an early release from prison by claiming his father was dying back in China got no sympathy from a Hong Kong court system with a long memory. Two years ago Law Chun-Kwan won early release from a jail term by claiming his father had died and he needed to comfort his ailing mother back in China, newspapers reported Wednesday. Mr. Law, now serving a 21-month sentence for being an illegal immigrant and possessing a dangerous weapon, this time produced a medical certificate purporting to prove that his "dead" father was dying again. But Justice Keith, questioning the authenticity of Mr. Law's latest medical certificate, was unmoved and rejected his appeal. "If my experience is anything to go by there is hardly ever an illegal immigrant in Hong Kong who does not have a dying parent or spouse in China," newspapers quoted the judge as saying.

Briton finds Polish father after 48 years

WARSAW (AFP) — Briton Joseph Jones, 48, met his Polish father Jozef Jonezyk for the first time here after following up his mother's death-bed confession, the Polish News Agency (PAP) reported Tuesday. Joseph and Jozef, aged 72, met at Warsaw Airport Friday to start a week's holiday together along with the British son's wife, daughter and a translator, it said. Joseph, an electrician, thought his parents were both English until his dying mother confessed that his real father was not the man she married in Britain but a Pole she met in Italy at the end of World War II. With the help of the Red Cross he managed to track down Jozef in Lomza, a town in northeastern Poland.

Foreign ministers let their hair down in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AFP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono turned up in a sombrero. South Korea's Han Sung-Joo played the harmonica and Gareth Evans of Australia sang a much-modified version of Waltzing Matilda. Foreign ministers from ASEAN states and their major international partners shed their dignified images to take a turn as entertainers at a light-hearted dinner here last night. The now-traditional dinner, between two full days of talks on serious subjects such as economic cooperation and regional security, was a particular success this year, participants said. There was a brief moment of concern, however, when the European Union warmed up its smoke machine while Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet was warbling, enveloping him in a cloud of mist.

In Indonesia, give blood and get out of jail

JAKARTA (R) — Prisoners at an Indonesian jail are being offered the chance to win early release by donating organs or blood. Marsono, chief warden at Kedungpang Jail at Semarang in central Java, told Antara News Agency that regular visits to the blood donor centre could knock up to six months off an inmate's sentence each year. The agency Wednesday quoted Mr. Marsono as saying the donation of an organ would bring an immediate six-month cut in sentence. Mr. Marsono, who described the programme as voluntary, said the incentive was not available to prisoners serving life terms. He did not say when it was started.

English village has enough of tea rooms

LONDON (R) — Even quaint English villages can have enough of cosy tea rooms, newspapers reported Tuesday. A row has erupted in picturesque Dunster, a sleepy hamlet in western England, over plans to open yet another tea shop to satisfy the summer tourist hordes' thirst for a "cuppa" with scones and lashings of clotted cream. The village of 858 people already has 15 tea rooms crammed along its cobbled main street, and some residents have had enough.

Jordan Times

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People's trust

IT HAS become safe to conclude that the majority of the Jordanian people were relieved to witness the signing of the Washington Declaration Monday, by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. There is wide recognition of the fact that the ending of the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel would hasten progress on other peace-making fronts that in turn would lead to progress and development for the whole region.

The people of the region have become tired of endless wars and conflicts. Many generations have known nothing but a perpetual state of war throughout their lives.

As long as the envisaged peace will be anchored on the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, there can be no room for suspicion.

We will be able now to see Jordan's territorial rights recognised and assured. There can be no better blessing for Jordanians than to have this sense of security and stability introduced to their lives. Now people know where they stand and know what to expect from the future. With this sense of stability more and more people would know how to plan their lives and rear their children. Above all peoples and countries now understand once and for all that Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine. Gone are the days when some Israeli extremists would have the world think that the solution of the Palestine question should be resolved at the expense of Jordan and the Jordanian people. The Washington Declaration must have served notice on all the international community including the Likud Party in Israel that the resolution of the Palestinian conflict must be at the expense of no party other than Israel itself. That means that Israel will have to make the necessary territorial compromises in order to accommodate the Palestinian yearnings for a homeland of their own. The sooner and the faster can the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks advance, the better it would be to all the parties.

Jordan will always pin hopes on the ability of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to strike an equitable bargain for its people with Israel in due course. The successes attained at the Jordanian front can only lend support to this Palestinian struggle for recognition as people entitled to their own homeland. The Jordanian people and leadership will continue to lend support to their Palestinian brethren until they regain their full rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS no secret to say that at least 60 per cent of the Palestinian people are refugees or displaced persons of some kind as a result of massacre carried out by Zionists against the Palestinian people since 1948, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. For the past four decades, Israel has been denying refugees the right to return to their homeland, and for the past three years of Arab-Israeli negotiations, Israeli leaders have ignored this right and resisted the implementation of U.N. Resolution 194 which calls for the refugees' return or compensation, said Ibrahim Al Absi. The refugees are referred to by Israel as a mere group of people who are in need for some kind of rehabilitation, said the writer. He said the Arab countries, led by the Arab League, should demand that the refugees question be discussed in urgent at all bilateral and multilateral phases of the peace process and that the refugees be repatriated or compensated so that peace can be just and lasting.

NOW THAT a new chapter in Arab-Israeli relations had been opened certain domestic affairs should be addressed to enable the Jordanian people confront the challenges of the present and the future, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dastour. We look forward to reforms in public administration, real fight against corruption and steering democracy towards the right track to serve solely and ensure continued national unity, said the writer. Democracy and peace are bound to fail if they are not coupled with social justice because, the writer said, there can be no democracy with poverty and no peace with injustice. The majority of people in Jordan talk about peace with optimism and hope that it would bring with it the long-aspired prosperity and reassurance about the future, he added. The writer said that the government has responsibility towards the middle class which, he said, has been adversely affected since the start of the peace process because the requirements of free market economy which has been making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The View from Academia

Reflections on the virtues of the Washington Declaration

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THIS is a time of hope and rejoice. What happened on Monday (July 25) at the White House is no ordinary event. His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have, I believe, laid a crucial cornerstone in the edifice of the bright future which we are all anxiously anticipating: a cornerstone firmer and more durable than any that has so far been laid, and a future whose auspicious signs are already beginning to issue forth. At last the far seems near, the abnormal normal, and the impossible possible.

Monday's historic meeting is significant in terms of both what it promises to fulfill and what it in itself signifies. The Washington Declaration signed by three leaders in the White House garden not only identifies in the most precise language the matters which Jordan and Israel need to address in order to resolve their conflict, but also paves the way for the establishment of a very fruitful bilateral relationship. Hostilities are going to cease, relations are going to be normalised, and joint projects of mutual benefit to the peoples of the two countries and the whole region are to be carried out. Indeed, a great deal of good seems to be in store for us, and much is expected to be achieved and gained.

But much has already been achieved and gained, we should underscore. Three things I wish to highlight in particular here, on the basis of the Washington Declaration and the elegant ceremony during which it was ratified.

1. The symbolism of what took place, of what we all saw and heard, on Monday in Washington must not pass without some due recognition. The warm handshakes, the emotional facial gestures, the heartfelt sentiments, the friendly atmosphere, and the eloquent but sober and mature rhetoric (which all struck me as utterly sincere) are indicative of a reality that has actually materialised. Conflicts among nations are not just political, historical, geographic, economic, and sociological. The psychological dimension is quintessential, perhaps all-essential. Frictions, tensions, acts of violence, and war stem largely from feelings of dissatisfaction, discontent, injustice, suspicion, bitterness, and hatred. His Majesty and the Israeli prime minister have been around long enough, virtually since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli trauma, to realise that a pursuit of peace which is not based on a genuine desire for peace will certainly fail. We felt such desire on Monday in the words, the acts, and the rituals. What we watched through TV on that historic day (whose roots extend all the way back to Madrid) was not simply the collapse of psychological barriers; rather, it was the emergence of a new mode of thinking, a new temperament, a new consciousness, and a new psyche. The Jordanian-Israeli meeting on the said day, hosted and sponsored by a fully

active American partner, epitomised the spirit which should have prevailed a long time ago. Had such spirit been prevalent, we would have averted so many disasters. Well, better late than never. Unquestionably, this new mode, temperament, consciousness, or psyche is the most precious fruit the peace process has yielded. Ultimately, it is this fruit that really counts. Everything else is subordinate.

2. The state of war between Jordan and Israel is officially over. This is good news indeed. The King, in saying what he has said in this respect, has left no room whatsoever for any guessing, hesitation, misunderstanding, or ambiguity about the matter. One thing extremely striking about His Majesty's brief but very eloquent impromptu speech, following the signing ceremony, is its remarkable straightforwardness.

"The man in the street, who has waited long and suffered long, is happy with the Washington Declaration and the Palestinian self-rule agreement as a start. It is our job to bring the peace process to a successful finish and to bring him a happiness which is long due."

There was no double talk, no beating around the bush, no elusiveness. The King dotted the 'i's when he pointed out that what was agreed upon was not an end to "the state of belligerency" but to "the state of war." We have been waiting for such an assertion for a long time. War is ugly, is monstrous, and is shameful. No one knows this better than the peoples of the Middle East region who for the greater part of the present century have found themselves engaged in one war after another. What a waste, what a pity, what a shame! When we renounce war, we are asserting ourselves as civilised human beings; such renunciation is our admission ticket to the fellowship of the human race. Is what is happening in Bosnia human? Is what is happening in

Rwanda human? I, like thousands of my generation, cannot get over the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, even though everything in it happened so quickly. I was eleven years old then. Twenty-seven years have passed then and I, like many in my generation, have not yet recovered from its scars. I saw my whole village levelled to the ground in front of my own eyes, at the hands of Israeli soldiers, I saw mothers abandon their children and run for their lives, I saw wounded people calling for help and no one dared to help them, I saw corpses swelling five times their normal size and no one bothering to give them a decent burial. 1967 was nowhere near Bosnia or Rwanda, but it was ugly. Imagine the feeling of helplessness, hopelessness, insecurity, and utter humiliation. And yet I, like the majority in my generation, am no proponent of vengeance or acts of violence of any sort. We condemn war, and we feel very heartened that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, and we feel the King's sentiments when he (Rabin), affirmed that the Middle Eastern children and grandchildren will that there will be no more wars. We hope he means this, and we pray there will be no more suffering and no more bloodshed.

3. The Washington Declaration has given a push to the overall Middle Eastern peace process. When the PLO struck the Oslo deal, I was half-joyed. I say "half" not because (like some) I was against reaching an agreement with Israel directly, but because a) the deal was negotiated behind the backs of the official Palestinian negotiating team and; more importantly, b) because one hand cannot clap, as we say in Arabic.

Now that Jordan had joined the march for peace, the momentum is almost in full swing. Jordan may be a small country, demographically; but it is fundamental, if peace is to prevail: because of its vital geographic location, its commonsensical policies, its realistic outlook, and its profound insight and vision. Now that it has committed itself to the process of peace, Jordan shall inevitably foster and augment the position of its Palestinian brothers; due to its credibility, it shall also encourage the Syrians and the Lebanese, whose presence at the negotiating table is a must, to follow suit. Suffice it to say that the declaration begins by emphasising "the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbours." This is what the Palestinians have underlined in the Gaza-Jericho first and what the Syrians and Lebanese always called for. Let's all act now and together.

The man in the street, who has waited long and suffered long, is happy with the Washington Declaration and the Palestinian self-rule agreement as a start. It is our job to bring the peace process to a successful finish and to bring him a happiness which is long due.

Qatar adopts distinctive foreign policies

By Youssef Azmeih
Reuters

DOHA — The small Gulf state of Qatar has emerged from under the shadow of giant neighbour Saudi Arabia to take increasingly independent foreign policies that are making people sit up.

"It is doing wonders for national pride at home and forcing foreign governments to take notice of Qatar," one Western diplomat said of foreign policy decisions over the past two years that have set Qatar apart from Gulf allies.

Qataris are particularly delighted this month by what they see as their most spectacular foreign policy success.

They were alone among the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to support Yemen's northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh in two months of war against secessionists who tried in vain to set up a breakaway southern Yemeni state.

The fall of Aden to Mr. Saleh's forces this month and the collapse of the breakaway state vindicated their claim that the young nation had a more astute diplomacy than powerful and long-established neighbours.

They are delighted that this was largely in line with the policy of the United States, that refused to be dragged into the Yemeni quagmire despite Saudi urgings, the diplomat said.

They also say they alone have the goodwill in Sana'a that may help ease future ties with the Saudi-dominated GCC, which also groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

However Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasssem Bin Jabr Al-Thani made clear at a news conference on Monday that no one had asked Qatar to play such a role.

"It was courageous. It is not easy to go against your big neighbours but our government took a decision on principle and was not afraid to advertise it," one Qatari intellectual said.

Foreign diplomats said Qatar had taken a risk and was fortunate matters turned out as they did.

The small oil-producing country of no more than 150,000 native Qataris that protrudes into the Gulf from the Saudi mainland may, however, be playing with fire, they added.

"They have seriously crossed the Saudis. Yemen is only the latest example. You never know how Riyadh might react if this provocation continues," one Western diplomat said.

Sheikh Hamad denied that Qatar's maverick policies were aimed against Saudi Arabia, with whom Qatar has an unresolved border problem that led to violence.

"Our policy is based on honesty... principles... we are not doing it to offend or annoy anyone," he said.

But the diplomats said that since the 1992 clash along the Saudi-Qatar border, Doha's policies were largely at odds with Saudi Arabia's.

Qatar appeared to have gone out of its way to befriend both Iran and Iraq, neighbouring states that Riyadh considers a threat to Saudi Security and to the stability of the Gulf oil region. These policies have also annoyed the United States.

It has expressed reservations about the results of many GCC meetings, effectively casting doubt about the validity of decisions in an organisation where unanimity is the rule.

It has made approaches to Israel at a time when its Gulf partners have remained officially aloof from the Jewish state, awaiting the outcome of peace negotiations with its immediate Arab neighbours.

Diplomats say they are not convinced there is no link between Qatar's foreign policy and what Doha sees as Riyadh's reluctance to implement a deal to demarcate the border by the end of 1993 or to carry out promises of resolving a separate Bahrain-Qatar border row.

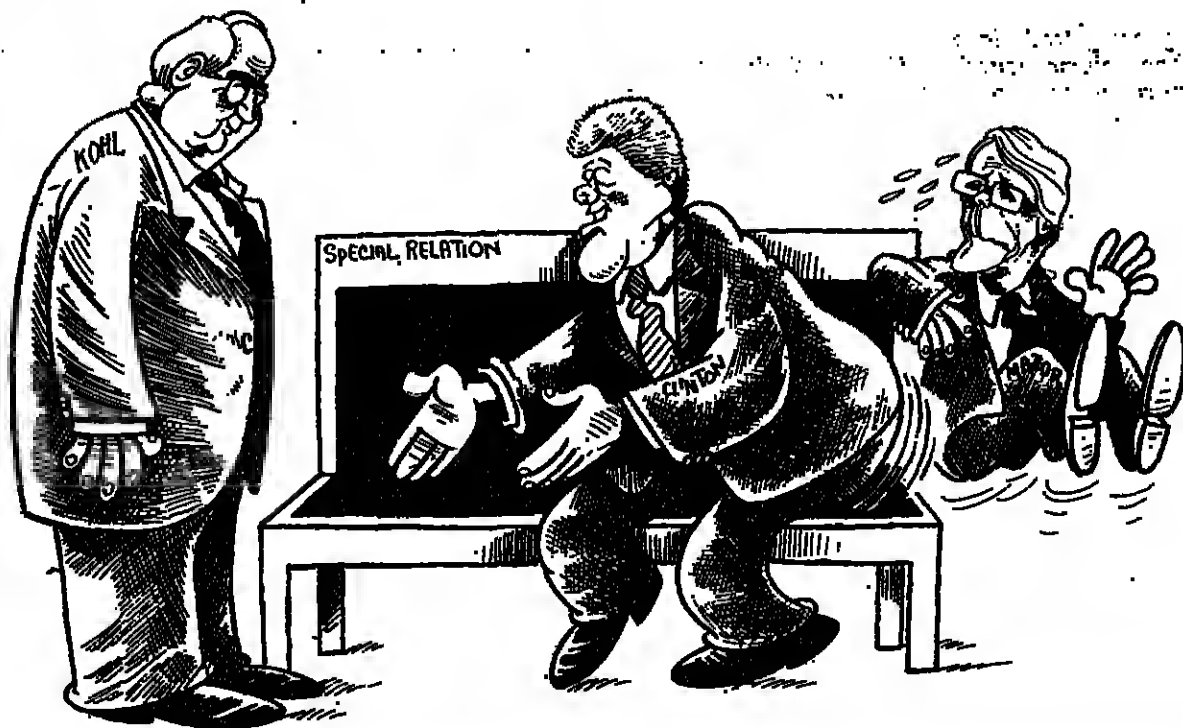
But they say there may be other reasons.

They said the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, had gradually handed over the day-to-day running of the state to his eldest son, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

With the help of a new generation of western-educated younger ministers appointed two years ago, the crown prince appeared determined to make Qatar's voice heard and instil a new sense of purpose in the country that gained full independence from Britain only in 1971.

"These policies have helped Qataris identify more closely with their state... there is a blooming of patriotism," one diplomat said.

M. KAHIL



Communists open Laos to the world

By Peter Eng
The Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos — Before Laos began edging out of isolation, the quiet streets of Vientiane were a vista of pastel villas from French colonial days and billboards exhorting everyone to serve the Communist motherland.

Today, visitors are greeted at the airport by a billboard offering Tiger beer from Singapore and another that warns: "AIDS is a worldwide problem."

As cars and motorcycles fill the wide, leafy boulevards, Vientiane's first traffic jam may not be far off. Nightclubs, discos and karaoke bars have sprouted around town, many owned by foreign investors. Gaudy Thai-owned hotels are favoured eating and entertainment spots for the newly rich.

Officials are pursuing "renovation" policies begun in 1986 to replace ideology with economic development. The pace of change has quickened since the foreign investment law was further liberalised in March. But the government is guiding change carefully to avoid an abrupt impact.

Laos has significantly improved relations with such former enemies as China. The United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including

Thailand.

At home, authorities are allowing Western relief agencies into many areas once declared off-limits. "We broke down one kind of resistance after another," said George Fune, a longtime relief worker in Laos.

The four million people of Laos, one of the world's poorest countries, appear to welcome the Western-style economic reforms.

"In two or three years, when you come back, you'll see new roads, taxis, everything," Bounchanh Chanthavong, a 44-year-old Lao-tian working for a Thai road-building company, told his seatmate on a domestic flight. He wore a gold watch, fashion sunglasses and a polo shirt. American rock music blared from the loudspeakers.

Perhaps the most telling evidence of the new atmosphere is the sharp rise in the number of Lao-tian-Americans, who fled the Communist takeover in 1975, returning to visit relatives and do business. They include members of the Hmong ethnic minority recruited by U.S. forces to fight the Communists.

Also, 3,925 Lao-tians returned from United Nations-aided refugee camps in Thailand last year, nearly 500 more than in the entire period 1980-1988, the U.N.

refugee agency said.

One member of the national assembly elected in 1992 is a refugee who came back from France. A man who spent 13 years in a Communist "re-education camp" now holds a senior government post.

According to official figures, Laos had 102,700 foreign tourists in 1993, six times more than in 1990. To minimise the impact on Lao culture and traditions, the government permits only prepaid, organised tours and discourages backpackers.

The strongest indication that Laos is committed to a different future may be its cooperation with capitalist neighbours.

Leaders of Laos, Thailand and Australia joined in dedicating an Australian-built bridge over the Mekong River between Vientiane and northeast Thailand that opened a path for increased trade, investment and other contacts.

Already, Lao-tian officials have expressed interest in a second bridge across the Mekong Border. Investors dream of a river lined with resorts, restaurants and condominiums.

To celebrate the bridge opening, singers from five nations performed a concert in Vientiane attended by more than 20,000 Lao-tians. It was the biggest

event of Communist rule and became the lead story in the inaugural issue of the Vientiane Times, the first English-language newspaper.

The concert was carried live on the inaugural broadcast of a new television station, for which a Thai-owned company is producing programmes in a joint venture with the government. The station carries Western and Asian programmes never before seen by Lao-tians, but all programming must be approved by the Information and Culture Ministry.

Journalists say they now may address a wider range of subjects and be more critical in examining social issues. They are not allowed to criticise the government, as in Communist Vietnam next door. But "we are on the road," one said. Three Lao-tian reporters were permitted to take a training course in Thailand taught by two Americans.

Foreign journalists find the atmosphere in Laos more relaxed. One example: A few foreigners were allowed into remote areas of three southern provinces for the first time in years.

Two foreign ministry officials who went along not only did not interfere, but returned to Vientiane two days before the trip ended.

Weekender

July 28, 1994

A

Published Every Thursday

The broken promised land

The Politics Of Dispossession: The Struggle For Palestinian Self-Determination, 1988-1994

By Edward Said (Chatto And Windus £20)

The most remarkable feature of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been not the great military and political success of the state of Israel or the hardship and misery imposed on the Palestinian people, but the West's heaping of praise and reward on the oppressors, and blame and penalty on the victims — a stark contrast to South Africa, Europe has for some time been more even-handed; not so the United States.

The struggle for Palestine is often thought to be one between two rights: both Arabs and Jews have a right to the land. But, initially at least, that was far from true. As late as 1917, Palestine was 90 per cent Arab. There had long been a small Jewish presence there, but by no stretch of imagination did the Jews have a secular right to Palestine. Hence, God had to be invoked.

The difficulty was that religious Jews did not believe in political Zionism — which means the turning of Arab land into Jewish, and the substitution of Jews for Arabs — and political Zionists did not believe in God. Virtually all leading Zionists had been non-believers. The founder of political Zionism, Theodor Herzl, was so little guided by the Old Testament that he would have been happy to settle for Uganda as the Jewish state.

As George Steiner put it: "Zionism was created by Jewish nationalists who drew their inspiration from Bismarck and followed a Prussian model." Yet somehow the idea got home that God had given Palestine to the Jews who, therefore, had a natural right to the land. So, as Edward Said writes in this impressive collection of finely textured essays, *The Politics Of Dispossession*, "a national movement whose provenance and ideas were European took a land away from a non-European people settled there for centuries".

Unfortunately, that process was begun by the British. By the Balfour Declaration of 1917, wrote Arthur Koestler, "one country solemnly promised to another the country of a third." That promise was not only freakish, as Koestler said, it was politically frivolous. Having been Chief Secretary of Ireland, Balfour well knew the results of sectarian bitterness and land disputes, yet he recklessly foisted them on to Palestine with the disastrous consequences that we know. In 1948, by a strikingly thorough policy of ethnic and geographical cleansing, the Israelis drove out five sixths of the Palestinian population and so comprehensively destroyed 400 out of 500 Palestinian villages that no trace of them now remains.

Edward Said is chiefly concerned, however, with the last 25 years when the Palestinians have had to contend not with British frivolity but with American malevolence. He himself was born in Jerusalem, and when his family was "dispossessed and displaced in 1948" he finished his education in the United States, where he is now Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia. In 1967 he became actively involved in Palestinian affairs; since then in addition to writing a number of notable books he has been the most cogent and eloquent defender of the Palestinians and their right to self-determination.

That has been no easy task. There is no decent argument against Palestinian self-determination, as the American public evidently recognises. But the Palestinians are "the victims of a victim" who in America is unusually powerful, and the views of the public count; for little against the pro-Israeli lobby, to which the Senate is unfailingly obedient. Hence the Palestinian case has been customarily vilified or ignored, and American aid showered upon Israel. (That relatively well-off country gets nearly half the total American foreign aid budget. Per capita, Israel gets 700 times as much as sub-Saharan Africa). With few exceptions American governing circles have been humiliatingly subservient to the Israelis.

The U.S. media are little better. The owner of the once-liberal Atlantic Monthly and U.S. News and World Report was only uncommonly candid in direct-

ing: "I will not have a word of criticism of Israel in any of my publications" Columnists such as AM Rosenthal and William Safire are mere Zionist propagandists. Others such as Anthony Lewis, William Pfaff and Stephen Rosenfeld are brave and fair, but they are a small minority.

Israel, therefore, can do much as it likes, and the unconsulted American tax-payer foots the bill. The internationally recognised frontiers of Israel leave the Palestinians just 23 per cent of Palestine — hardly an excessive proportion for the indigenous inhabitants. Yet, by building a mass of illegal settlements, Israel has stolen some 40 per cent of that remnant. In the Gaza Strip 5,000 Israeli settlers and the Israeli army still occupy more than half as much land as 800,000 Palestinians.

The United States has underwritten such activities as well as the accompanying Israeli violence. It has effectively paid for the bullets which have enforced a brutal occupation — live ammunition has routinely been fired at children throwing stones, hundreds of whom have been killed and wounded. Torture has been prevalent, yet American hypocrisy is easily equal to treating the Palestinians as the offenders instead of as victims who deserve reparations.

As the settlements still grow apace, Said is gloomy about the future. He has no time for the Arab governments, little for Yasser Arafat. And he believes the incompetently negotiated Oslo Peace Accord to be "an instrument of Palestinian surrender." This fine book shows him to be an angry man; it also shows that he has much to be angry about — The Observer.

Ian Gilmour

Wheels of war

Arms Industry Limited

Edited by Herbert Wulf

Oxford University Press For SIPRI, England 1993, £37.50

Arms And The State: Patterns of military production and trade

By Keith Klause

Cambridge University Press, England 1992, £40

Although neither of these books is devoted exclusively to the Middle East, their subject and findings are of direct relevance to a region characterised by armed conflict, high levels of militarisation and an ever burgeoning trade in arms.

The volume edited by Herbert Wulf is the more applied of the two, as it describes and analyses the industrial activities of the major global arms producers. A dozen lesser producers, including a couple of Middle Eastern states, are assessed by Ian Anthony, who notes the expensive failures of past experience but argues, at the same time, that there is scope for inter-state cooperation due to the nature and proliferation of modern military and industrial technology. Nonetheless, only those countries with an established level of political and economic development are likely to make progress in indigenous arms production. Anthony anticipates slow growth in the overall volume of these lesser producers, not least because they lack sufficient local capital and markets to embark on major projects, and observes that most arms industries are currently undergoing restructuring and simultaneous manpower reductions. Once they have a military industrial capability, he concludes, few countries are likely to give it up.

This conclusion is borne out by Gulay Gunluk-Senesen, whose contribution describes the rapid rise in Turkish armament programmes since the Gulf war, due to the modernisation of obsolete equipment, a change in NATO policy, no-strings-attached Russian supplies, and the ongoing conflict with the PKK. The decision to give defence spending priority over welfare and to maintain investment in local arms industries, despite heavy technological dependence on Western suppliers, is probably indicative of likely behaviour elsewhere in the Balkans and the Middle East.

Krause takes an opposite approach, developing a

historical approach towards arms production and trade and its implications for international relations and the global "pecking order". He argues that there are three main tiers of arms producing states in terms of technological and industrial capability, and that the barriers to movement between them by individual states remain high. This is very much because the "economic endowments" of states remain important as the prime determinant in the global military hierarchy. The attempt by weak states to develop their indigenous capabilities in military technology and production — whether in order to fortify themselves against the strong or dominate their local regions — has met limited success and has not enabled them to compete effectively in international markets, whether for commercial profit or strategic influence.

In the view of Krause, the rapid advance of technology and the massive rise in cost threaten to eclipse any progress the "third tier" makes, and even undermines the position of the "second tier" states of Western Europe. Yet conversely, the past pattern of transfer of military technology from the "first tier" — the U.S. and USSR — to their industrial allies has weakened the manipulative ability of the superpowers. The "third tier" will remain marginal as the arms production market resists diffusion and stays concentrated — arms producers of the Middle East take note — but 19th century history suggests that key global suppliers will continue to have an interest in "internationalising" production and cooperating with certain developing countries — Middle East International.

Yezid Sayigh

An inspiring example

Palestinian Women: Identity And Experience

Edited By Ebba Augustin

Zed Books, London 1994, £32.95/£13.95 (pb)

This latest book on Palestinian women is welcome in the sense that it is largely written by Palestinian women themselves out of their own widely varied experiences. At the same time, it is a far from uplifting addition to the growing genre as its many-faceted approach serves best to remind us of the catalogue of horrors experienced by the Palestinian population in the occupied territories at the hands of the Israelis.

Palestinian women have a proud history of activism and organisation which stands out among the women of this region. As this book makes abundantly clear, they have been agitating in one way or another since the early days of British colonial rule and the Zionist expropriation of their land. But the woman endures a double oppression. "She fights not just against the norms of her patriarchal society but also against the loss of identity." It is a struggle which shows no sign of being resolved.

Despite the creation of political women's committees and the development of a secular, democratic framework in which to negotiate for equal rights, women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are once again confronting the looming imposition of Islamic "traditional" values. These are generally viewed as being in opposition to "progressive" tendencies and associated with the discouragement of a wider social role for women.

Nonetheless, women have fought for access to education, including university education, acceptance into the labour force, the right to participate in trade unions and other bodies, and to have a say in the choice of marriage partner and size of family. Although the odds against them are formidable and many women have given up in despair, a significant number of others refuse to succumb to the forces of reaction.

All the while, invading every aspect of daily life, the occupation continues to sap the spirit of the Palestinian population, to curtail its freedom in ways both physical and psychological, to extinguish any spark of economic activity and to maintain an atmosphere of violence throughout the occupied territories. It is both challenging and demoralising, and for women the costs are even higher.

As the chapter about Palestinian adolescent girls' fears of sexual harassment by the Israeli occupation

BOOK REVIEWS

forces illustrates, the problem of female victimisation is "universal". Palestinian society, suggests the author, must bear some of the blame since it "sees the woman as powerless, dominated by her sexuality, which must be controlled and protected by the powerful and mentally, physically and socially superior man. The price of infringement of the norms is high: The honour and the good name of her family..." Given the enormity of opposition, it is perhaps surprising that the Palestinian woman continues to strive against the restrictions of her society and the deadening repression of the occupation. From the ceramic art of Vera Tamari and the short stories of Hanan Ashrawi to the tax revolt at Beit Sahur and the "heroic motherhood" of women such as Umm Muhammad, whose two sons were expelled from their homeland, the determination of the Palestinian woman continues to provide an inspiring example. This book is both a useful document and a tribute to her courage, ingenuity and optimism — Middle East International.

Maria Holt

An unrealistic prognosis

False Inheritance: Israel In Palestine And The Search For A Solution

By Michael Rice

Kegan Paul International, London 1994, £19.95

As well as writing extensively on the archaeology of the Arabian peninsula, Michael Rice has also worked as an adviser to a number of governments in the region, including those of Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Rice's background in the Gulf states might help explain the tendency of this book to go out of its way to praise the policies of the Gulf states towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, and its manifest failure to criticise the Kuwaitis for their treatment of the Palestinians in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

The whole purpose of the book is to prove that there is no moral or legal justification for the "implantation of a Jewish population, predominantly European in its origins, in the land of Palestine". Only by accepting the de-Zionisation of Israel and the creation of a cantonal or federal structure in which Israel, Palestine and Jordan are linked, argues Rice, can peace be given even the modest chance of being accomplished.

Although the book is articulately written it is just too polemical to be taken seriously. Far better deconstructions of Zionism have been written than this one, notably Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi's *Original Sins*. The book is filled with bold and sweeping generalisations about Jewish and Middle Eastern history, but the author largely fails to inform the reader of his sources. What footnotes there are tend to refer to secondary sources, many of which have a dubious scholarly value. The author weakens his case further by making wholly unacceptable and unnecessary comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany. For example, he writes that "young Israelis now beat elderly Arabs and children as readily as young stormtroopers beat elderly Jews and drove Jewish children into concentration camps". However oppressive the Israelis are, they are not about to inflict a Final Solution on the Palestinian people.

Rice's prognosis in the final chapter is hopelessly misinformed and unrealistic. After conveniently dismissing the recent influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, he claims that Jews of Oriental descent ("who did not want to come to Israel in the first place") are likely to become the majority in Israel and could find a partnership with their Palestinian brethren against the white European Jews who have oppressed them both. This, Rice contends, is more likely to bring peace than the 1993 PLO-Israel accord, the principal effect of which has been to give Zionism undeserved legitimacy — Middle East International.

Toby Ash

The silkworm — man's best friend

By Jean-Marc Dupuich

Just like the bee, but without its stinger, the silkworm works for man. Unfortunately, it is prone to bronchitis and can only live in a temperate climate. French biologists are manipulating its genes so as to be able to acclimatise it to the tropics and to use its proteins in the pharmaceuticals industry.

PARIS — When one thinks of silk, one has images of lingerie that is so soft that it feels like skin on skin, beautifying the body. One also thinks of clothes, light as a cloth, made of breath, shimmering beneath a caress of light. But do people realise that this voluptuous textile is spewed out by a caterpillar, the larva of the silkworm, commonly known as a silkworm, of which one could say, paraphrasing the famous words spoken by the actress Arletty in the film *Le Jour*: "Its existence is no life at all".

Twenty layers. Protected by this hard shell, the caterpillar turns into a chrysalis before transforming itself into a moth, the *bombyx mori*.

What mad scientist could have dreamt of such a lepidoptera? Its wings serve no purpose as it cannot fly. Nor is it able to feed as it no longer has a mouth. With its useless wings and its atrophied digestive system, its whole body is nothing but a reproductive organ, and it devotes the few days of its short existence to reproduction. It mates, it lays its eggs and then it dies... of hunger.

But only 1 per cent of *bombyces* meet this fate. The remaining 99 per cent do not have the time to turn into moths. Barely have they dried the last dribble of silk hanging on the corner of their mouths than they are boiled. The chrysalides are killed by the heat and the cocoons, which have been softened by the boiling water and then fluffed up with a brush, release the end of the thread in which they are wrapped. The thread is then unravelled. This

process has been going on since an unlucky cocoon fell 5,000 years ago, into the cup of tea of one of the wives of the Chinese Emperor Hoang Ti. The wife pulled the end of the thread which had been released by the heat of the drink and that was the beginning of the art of silk.

Silk production

All seems to be for the best in the best of all possible worlds. Nature has given man an insect which has reduced all its vital functions to serving him. But that was not enough. The Eurochrysalis programme, set up in Lyons, the French capital for silk, is working to improve the yield of the *bombyx* larva, trying to reduce its voracious appetite and make it eat something else apart from mulberry leaves.

The programme is also seeking ways to immunise this worm which has frail health and to acclimatise it to the tropics. The project also aims to "improve its secreting performance by identifying the genes



The silkworm works for man

which control the production of silk." And that is not all. In addition to these commercial objectives which are aimed at diversifying the sources of production (China practically has a monopoly on the sale of raw silk), the Eurochrysalis programme also wants to turn the *bombyx* caterpillar into a protein factory. Already, the thread that it secretes consists entirely of proteins. There are two filaments of fibrin surrounded by sericin. The purpose now is to modify the silkworm's genetic heritage to make it spew forth proteins of pharmaceutical interest — L'Actualité En France.

Me? Addicted?

By Jean-Claude Elias

There are strange similarities between cigarette smoking and personal computing. You do it "fully" or you don't.

To start with, people who use a personal computer (PC) tend to work several hours a week, if not a day, on the machine. Very few will spend only a couple of hours per week computing. How many smokers can do with three or four cigarettes a day? Without citing statistics, we all know that real smokers need at least one pack per 24 hours.

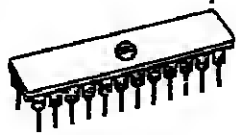
Extensive hours before your PC screen, your fingers running on the keyboard are not only physically exhausting but very much mind stressing. The damage smoking does to humans has recently been one of the media favourite topic for us not to explain more.

The problem, you might have guessed, is called addiction.

Even though there is more to computing than the negative aspect of addiction, PC users, those really in love with the machine, forget sleep, food, friends, children and spouse when they sit and start their love affair with the monster.

Operating a PC requires a minimum of mental concentration. This tends to create a strong, invisible link between the computer and the operator. The latter has a feeling of comfort and confidence that puts him on a magic cloud. The PC is predictable, won't argue and can't be switched on and off whenever one pleases. Unlike TV, computing is an interactive action. It is an escape from life's daily problems, an isolation from the people or things we do not want to communicate with.

chip talk



Another, very logical reason why personal computing is extremely time consuming is that in order to become efficient in operating a PC, one needs to practice a lot, to keep learning new programmes, new games, new systems. Naturally, there are people who are satisfied with just an hour or less of computing every day. Chances are they do not actually need the PC and are very slow at operating it.

The phenomenon is now well known socially and the number of "computer widows", as the wife of a PC addict is called, is on the increase everywhere around the world. The attraction of some to computers is often seen as a real obsession. They would spend sleepless nights playing PC games, writing programmes, learning software that looks great but they will never need.

A genuine PC "freak" will let his friends have parties or his family go to picnics without him. He'd rather stay at home with his only true love.

There goes the story of a PC addict whose wife tried to convince him to give up computing and take to smoking — "at least we would have some conversation" she told him. The man loved the cigarette, became a chain smoker and remained a PC addict.

Cinderella and the invasion

By E. Yaghi

How would you feel if you were invaded by seven grandchildren at one explosive time? The most rational thing you might do on the spur of such a nerve racking moment is to rush to the nearest closet and bolt yourself in. But Cinderella, now a grandmother, who once had rode off into the dark purple hills with her knight in shining armour, did nothing of the sort. In fact, by now, not only was she older but she was not supposedly wiser, for if she had been, she would not have invited any of her married children to dinner in the first place. Nevertheless, Granny Cindy braved an invitation extended to her married son who had two children and her married daughter who had five, and guess what? The moment those darling, sweet, perfumed little beings who sort of resembled humans arrived at her house, they commenced running in every direction until quite dizzy, the poor old lady lost track of which grandchild was running where. Foolishly, old granny had vacuumed the carpet, cleaned the bathroom and mopped the kitchen floor before her precious grandkids stormed through the house and once in, papers, books, balls and toys of every manner flew into the air in every direction as old granny crept into the kitchen to hide behind the food she planned to whip up with her daughter. Grandfather was nowhere in sight for he, much more clever than his wife, had sneaked off to the woods with his brother for a day of sun and fun, leaving poor old granny to defend the fort. Well, the old lady worked and worked and cooked and cooked while every once in a while her bachelor sons bounced into the kitchen to taste her brew and yell: "Hurry up mom, we're starving!"

In defence she sighed: "But you just woke up at 12 noon and I fed you breakfast not long ago, so how can you be starving so soon?"

Somehow, all the commotion, oagging, cooking, sweating and so on, reminded her of her long ago days when she had to work so hard to feed her nasty step-mother and ugly step-sisters and now it seemed history was repeating itself except for the fact that her children were not ugly, just demanding slave drivers. Next to her side, valiantly stood her daughter, the mother of five out of seven screaming monsters that had infested her previously relatively quiet home. Both females stuffed cabbage leaves, eggplant and green pepper, as well as fried and baked some chicken all to the tune of kids of all sizes, screaming, crying, laughing and banging their way all over the house.

At last dinner was served. Finally all the grandchild-

dren for the first time congregated in one area around the food spread out before them. At first, after everyone helped himself or herself, the grandchildren pretended they were civilised, but they soon gave this facade up and started reaching to all parts of the table for second servings. Shortly, the entire area was covered with food and someone managed to spill a glass of soda right in the middle of everything. Did the food really taste good? Who knows amidst such confusion and so many children. At last, dinner over, those little darlings with the greasy, messy hands which successfully managed to touch most of the furniture, resumed their laughter, screaming, yelling and crying to the pure delight of Granny Cindy.

As the last grandchild rolled out of her house, a wilted old lady surveyed the damage done and once again took out her little red vacuum cleaner and swept all the mess away. Well, almost all, for the kitchen floor had spots every few inches and the house had a general topsy turvy look to it. Had she really even had the chance to visit her daughter and soo while their children were darting in and out? It didn't seem like it, but she thought she'd wait a while before she repeated this day's experience.

That night, grandfather nonchalantly breezed in after all his grandchildren had gone, took one look at his rumpled wife and said: "Well, you seem as though you've had a busy day," in a carefree manner, apparently satisfied he had missed all the action.

Next morning, old, tired, decrepit Grandmother Cinderella wobbled around the house feeling ever so much older. Later that same day, her bachelor sons rushed to her by turn and said: "Hurry up mom and iron our clothes for us. We're going to a wedding!"

So, she ironed and she ironed and she ironed some more and then answered such questions as: "Hey, mom, does this look OK or should I wear something else?"

After her kids tramped out of the house on their way to the wedding ball, Granny Cindy moaned and groaned: "It seems just like old times. Here I am, getting everyone ready for the ball and then staying home all by myself alone and forgotten."

At this late date, I don't think she has a fairy godmother anymore, for she must have died ages ago, along with the mice. And since she already married the charming prince, the old days of losing a glass slipper on the palace steps were past too. It seemed the best thing to do was to sit by the embers of the dying fire and dream of long ago times when she was young as she nodded her head in slumber to the music of a string of musical snores.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- ★ In 1940, nine gallons milk were bought for one dollar only!
- ★ At a university in the Indiana state, a device run by batteries had been made to set to work the central nervous system of a paralysed dog.
- ★ A wealthy man in California recommended cremating his body. Immediately after stuffing the ashes into two dozens of fireworks and then shooting them into the sky so as to be scattered in the air.
- ★ A law promulgated by the Texas state had banned decorating "the cherry cake" with ice-cream.
- ★ Last year a ceremony was held to celebrate the wedding of a 69-year old woman to a 71-year old man in a skiing ring in Pennsylvania.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- How old are you? **Kam omrak?**
- Fifty, but I'm going to be fifty-one next Friday. **Khamsoon, wa-lakin sa'ablogh wahid wa-khamsoon youm el-Juma'a el-kadim.**
- You look much younger than your age! **Innaka tabdoo as'gar kathiran min sinnik.**
- It doesn't matter how old I am. One is as young as he feels. **La yabou kam omri. Shababul'marie yanbu chsasihi.**
- I'd say your wife is about forty-five. **Azon anna zawjataka tah'logh khamsoon wa'arba'oon.**
- That's a correct guess. **Haza takhmeen sahih.**
- How do you feel after this long age? **Kayfa tash'or ba'da hazal-omar el-taweel?**
- I feel energetic and active. **Ash'or bil'hayawiya wan'nashat.**
- How do you keep fit? **Kayfa tohafiz ala layakatikal badaniya?**
- I follow a particular diet and practice sport every morning. **Aseer hasba nizam giza'i khass wa'omareess al-riyadha kolla sabah.**

- Numbers:
- Ten: **Ashra**
- Twenty: **Ishroon**
- Thirty: **Thalathoon**
- Forty: **Arba'oon**
- Fifty: **Khamsoon**
- Sixty: **Sittoon**
- Seventy: **Sab'oon**
- Eighty: **Thamanoon**
- Ninety: **Tiss'oon**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

- ★ MOTHER: "Eat your spinach, it'll put colour to your cheeks."
- DAUGHTER: Who wants green cheeks?!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ TEACHER: Correct this sentence: "It was me that spilt the ink."
- PUPIL: It wasn't me that spilt the ink.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ FIRST BOY: My brother earns his living with his pen.
- SECOND BOY: Oh, is he an author?
- FIRST BOY: No, he keeps pigs.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ A woman returned home one evening and asked her new maid: "Did you clean out the refrigerator as I told you?"
- "Yes, ma'am," said the girl. "And everything was delicious."

- ★ OFFICE MANAGER: Look at all the dust on this desk. It looks like it hasn't been cleaned for a fortnight.
- CLEANING LADY: Don't blame me, sir. I've only been here for a week!

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Housewives in ancient Britain used querns. What were they?
2. Which is mightier than what?
3. Which city is often known as Auld Reekie?
4. Where were the "Hanging Gardens?" Who built them?
5. With which flower is Australia associated?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR CHARACTER IN FOCUS

BORN ON JUNE 1

- Kind-hearted and sympathetic.
- Easily influenced by praise.
- Very sensitive, idealistic and endowed with imagination.
- Has dual nature; others find difficulty to understand him.
- Has an active mind, always ready for any emergency.
- Usually restless and desires travel or change.
- Usually successful in life due to his active nature.
- Honest and acknowledged his faults.
- Changeable, not constant in friendship.
- Cheerful and happy; his outlook on life is very optimistic.
- Has a quick grasp of any subject and can participate spontaneously in conversation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

- (A) 250 UP:
It is possible to use a certain figure eight times to produce the sum of 250 by addition.
How is it done?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- (B) WORD SUM:
The method of travel used by many businessmen of the present day is suggested by the arrangement of words below. Actually, it is an addition in which the figures in the first five lines and in the total have been replaced by letters. These letters, numbered 1234567890, in that order, form a keyword, by means of which the sum can be worked out.

Find this KEYWORD, and substitute the appropriate figure for the letters.

F	I	R	S	T
P	A	R	T	N
E	R	I	E	S
F	I	E	S	I
N	F	A	S	T
8	5	1	2	0
8	2	3	8	
A	I	R	P	L
A	I	R	P	L
A	I	R	P	L

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 28

- 9:10 Murder she wrote
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Movie Of The Week — Mrs. Arris Goes To Paris
- Starring: Angela Lansbury, Diana Rigg and Omar Sharif

On a trip to Paris to choose a designer's dress, an old lady gets to meet people who influence her life and who grew to depend on her kindness and judgement.

Friday, July 29

- 9:00 E.N.G.
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Emilie
- Rozette and Emilie become close friends, and both are devastated by the sickness of Lazar and Avid.

Saturday, July 30

- 8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
- 9:30 The Campbells
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Feature Film — Casablanca Express
- Starring: Glen Ford and Jason Connery
- Away from the German spying eyes, the British and the Americans are to transfer Winston Churchill from Algiers to Casablanca for a meeting with U.S. President F.D. Roosevelt.

Sunday, July 31

- 8:30 You Bet Your Life
- 9:10 Stolen Lives
- Dawn, at present, takes care of Sam, her best friend. Evelyn — in the past — recalls how James took her to South Africa after the war... in search for a better and a new life.

Monday, Aug. 1

- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 The House Of Eliott
- The two sisters strike a deal with a newly established "house" in London... as rumours spread more openly about the love between Eevie and Alexander.
- 11:10 The Second Half
- One Flew Over A Nest Of Cuckoos
- As John's daughter leaves hospital after catching a flu, he and a couple of friends share the same experience after they also are infected.

Monday, Aug. 1

- 8:30 My Big Brother Jake
- 9:30 A Galactic Odyssey
- Panorama Of The Star Spangled Heavens
- The science fiction spaceship Heliuss — with its 4-member crew — goes into space. Its aim: To reach the centre of the sun.

Tuesday, Aug. 2

- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Matrix
- To Err Is Human
- Matrix is assigned to help the very homicide cop who is trying to put Matrix behind bars for accidentally killing a man.
- 11:10 No Job For A Lady
- White Knight
- Woman MP, Jean, wages a war against drug smugglers; her war leads her to dangerous zones.

Wednesday, Aug. 3

- 8:30 Hollywood Stunt Makers
- 9:10 The Commish
- In The Best Of Families
- Son of rich man is in custody. His repeated threats of suicide becomes Commissioner Scali's nightmare.
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 The Burden Of Proof
- Starring: Stefanie Powers and Victoria Principal
- Sandy is on a case of fraud, involving not only his brother-in-law, but his own two children.
- 11:10 Harry and The Andersons
- Body Guard
- Harry, the giant, comes to the rescue of Arnie and Tim, whose fight involves a pair of old shoes.

Thursday, Aug. 4

- 9:10 The Native Of Things
- Diabetes, Blood Sugar, Sweat and Fears
- All you need to know about diabetes: its effect on how the body functions, the latest in its treatment, and a study of diabetics among the Red Indians in Canada and others in Finland.
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 The Nanny
- 10:50 Poldark
- On the verge of bankruptcy, Ross seeks the help of Mark, who is still hiding from the police.

Nana Mouskouri makes her debut at the European Parliament

By Janet Mcevoy
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Greek singer Nana Mouskouri stepped onto a different stage when she became one of her country's new members of the European Parliament.

Acclaimed for songs like *White Rose of Athens* and her distinctive look, characterised by unmistakable glasses, she says she has no intention of giving up singing, but that she will find the time to fill her responsibilities as a Euro-MP.

"I will take the time that I need but I will continue to sing. I will organise myself very well," she told Reuters in an interview during a visit to Brussels.

She may not represent the typical image of a

Euro-MP — ambitious career politicians lugging tonnes of documents between the European Union's directly elected assembly's seats in Brussels and Strasbourg.

But she says her life as a popular figure and as one of the "first Europeans," having lived in different parts of Europe and speaking and singing six languages fluently, have equipped her for the more human side of politics.

"I'm part of the people and I'm interested in people, especially in children and youth which I think is the future, not only of Europe, it's the future of the world," she said.

"I think that a person who has been very popular and also received so much from around the world, comes to a point that they want to give

back some of this care and attention they have had all their life and the knowledge and experience they have."

In the weeks since her election on June 12 she has attacked her job with zeal, commuting between her home in Geneva, her recording base in Paris and Brussels for meetings with colleagues in the pan-European European People's Party (Christian Democrats).

Elected in the number three slot of the list of "new Democracy," the moderate right wing Greek party which gained nine seats in the 567-member assembly, she has set children's and youth issues at the top of her own political agenda.

She hopes as a Euro-MP to be able to carry on work she has done since

becoming ambassador for the performing arts for the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, last October.

She has already lined herself up for places on the European Parliament's Education and Culture Committees.

One of the first things she did on her appointment to UNICEF was to visit children in war-stricken Bosnia.

"I was a child of the war myself," she told journalists at the time of her appointment to UNICEF.

"During the second world war I remember kids crying with terror in the streets among torn off limbs, sitting in pools of blood. Later during the Greek Civil War I saw neighbours and brothers slaughtering each other. I accepted the UNICEF job

with the idea that I might be able to stop all that happening again."

Mouskouri says helping children in African countries is a priority, but that young people's needs in Europe should not be forgotten in the process.

Although she has lived most of her life outside the country where she was born in 1934, having become a celebrity in her adopted homeland France, she says one of her principal goals is to strengthen ties between Greece and the other EU countries.

"It's very important for my country to have understanding with the other countries. It's a question that each one keeps its culture, its identity, but works together," she said.

She says it is also important that she is one of

Greece's first women Euro-MPs. Four women were elected this time, but Greece had no women at all in the outgoing parliament.

She says that while she herself has not faced great problems getting on in life as a woman it is important to raise the political profile of Greek women in Europe.

She follows in the steps of the late actress Melina Mercouri who was minister of culture in Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's Socialist (Pasek) government.

In March she became the first person outside the Mercouri family to back the new Melina Mercouri Institute and memorial set up to preserve the Parthenon and continue the former minister's campaign



Nana Mouskouri

to repatriate the Elgin Marbles. Since her official debut as a singer in 1962 she has won more than 350 gold discs, each representing

100,000 discs sold. Mouskouri lives with her partner and musical director Andre Chapelle. She has two children by an earlier marriage.

Janitor's hidden talent finally comes to light

EDITOR'S NOTE — Few of his American friends suspected that Haitian-born Jacques Midi, the town hall janitor in Greenburgh, N.Y., was a talented sculptor who carved powerful images from blocks of wood. Now, after 13 years of scrubbing floors, Midi is attracting attention in the art world.

By Kiley Armstrong
The Associated Press

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — As a child, Jacques Midi survived hunger and hardship. By his own modest definition, he now enjoys prosperity: A steady job as a janitor, plenty of food on the table.

Still, Midi does without. He'd rather share his bounty with loved ones left behind in his native Haiti.

For 13 years, Midi — resigned to earning a reliable living for their sake — had forced himself to forget that he once was an artist.

Then came a happenstance chat, and a little encouragement.

Hesitantly, he picked up some sculpting tools. He found that the muse had never really left.

When others saw what he had created, the muse quickly spread. "As Nora Zeale Hurston, a maid, ended up being a great American novelist, Midi, given the chance, could become a very significant artist," predicts Charles H. Rowell, editor of *Callaloo*, a Virginia-based, black cultural journal.

For now, though, Midi is content in his role as local hero, relishing adulation and opportunities in his adopted hometown that he never dared to imagine.

His "American Dream," says Midi, is

coming true. Jacques Midi is a lyrical storyteller, with words and with wood.

The events unfold through his words, with their swirling pitch and graceful rhythm, best-told in a Caribbean patois.

But words fail him when it comes to describing his feelings.

The feelings come out through his sculpture. His hands — strong yet nimble — are the link between the words and the feelings. They carve, of course. And they also dance as Midi, marveling, retells his life's journey.

Glimpse, through his words and his sculpture, Midi's own childhood.

A woman, beleaguered yet beautiful, chiseled into a foot-tall chunk of wood. She worked in a factory, and in the fields.

"She carried a bowl and when she made money, she'd buy some food." Three naked children

cling to her: "Me, my sister, my baby brother." They strain toward the bowl.

Fortune shines on the boy: He's putting a morsel into his mouth. His sister, hand outstretched, "is still begging."

"When I was growing up, my dream was to come to America," says Midi, 45. "I'd do a side job to get the 12 cents to see a John Wayne movie on a Sunday."

"I used to go to bed, hungry, and dream I'm here. When I'd wake up, I had gone nowhere."

But Midi was a doer, as well as a dreamer. "I said, 'I have to be somebody in my life.'"

At age 15, he was caught sneaking onto a Miami-bound boat. The misdeed brought him 10 months in a Haitian prison. That's where he learned to carve.

Midi quickly learned that art could ease his family's hunger: Tourists

paid \$6 for his carvings; a local gallery, a few dollars more.

It would take three decades to discover that art could also satisfy his heart.

Midi finally made it out of Haiti — emigrating to Jamaica, and then, on April 22, 1981, to America.

In Miami, he gathered fallen branches and carved, like he had back home, for tourists on the beach. But the police stopped him. Fearing deportation, Midi abandoned art for more lucrative livelihoods: Dishwashing, car cleaning, truck driving.

Love brought him north, to this New York City suburb of 83,000, a few years ago.

Luck landed him the janitor's job. Night after night, he'd scrub town hall.

Practically every dime from the job has gone to his ailing mother and

seven siblings. So much, in fact, that his own electricity once was cut off for lack of payment.

"If I don't send money for food, they're going to die," he says, matter-of-factly.

All along, co-workers were impressed by this "decent" guy. But few suspected what was beneath the surface.

If the subject of art happened to arise, "he'd say, yes, he did sculpture, but he didn't go into detail," says Greenburgh deputy town attorney Olga Simon.

One day, town supervisor Paul Feiner was chatting with Midi about a high school art display. Midi conceded that he'd carved a bit. Feiner invited him to bring something in.

It had been 13 years. "I said, 'God, make sure you help me do good stuff. I have to show it to my supervisor,'" Midi recalls, eyes heavenward.

As he studied a chunk of castoff mahogany, a vision appeared. In three weeks, it was finished: Midi called it *Midnight Runner*.

The work, perhaps a foot tall, depicts a slave, "from Haiti or Africa." His arms are muscular, his belly swollen; his expression bears the haunting look of the hunted.

"He's confused, naked," Midi says. "The chain on his ankle is broken. He doesn't know where to go."

More chains dangle from his neck. He casts a sideways glance, so as "not to get caught."

When *Midnight Runner* was displayed, the town let out a collective gasp. "I was very taken by it," says Housing Commissioner Lydia Rosner. "It was beautifully executed."

"The expression on the face" marvelled town hall data processor Marie Masi, whose daughter, Shauna, 10, promptly wrote a school report on

Midi.

Encouraged, Midi tried again. Soon, *Mother With Three Children* was born.

"His work is very alive," says Simon, who, like Midi, came from Haiti. "It's very consistent with life in Haiti: A great deal of brutality and poverty, but also an unshakable sense of dignity, invincibility."

"Even the mother, when feeding her children, is erect. Even the slave is not a broken person."

With its muted tones and more sophisticated appearance, Midi's work deviates from traditional Haitian "vernacular" art, known for its bold colours and its depictions of vegetation, crowds and spiritual themes.

As the word spread, Midi was invited to demonstrate carving at the County Auditorium. This summer, he'll teach sculpture — along with some bidden lessons on patience and ambition — to kids at a community centre.

The unexpected theatrical success of Pierre and Marie Curie

By Sylvie Thomas

Les Palmes De Mr. Schutz, performed for the first time in 1989, in Paris, is still a success all over the world. The story begins with a prestigious theatre, an enterprising director and the moving and entertaining story of an extraordinary couple of scientists.

PARIS — There have been some 1,500 performances of the play in France and abroad, with nearly a million spectators. It has won four "Molières," which are the most prestigious awards in French theatre and numerous other signs of recognition (the prize of the Society of Dramatic Authors and composers, the Arietty Prize, the Daniel Sorano Prize, etc.) for the different people taking part.

About twenty countries have bought the rights for *Les Palmes De Mr. Schutz* and the play has already been a success in Montreal. This year saw its revival in Paris and now the play is once more on tour in the provinces, always playing to full houses, with new actors.

Yet, when *Les Palmes*

de Mr. Schutz was first performed on Sept. 18, 1989, at the Theatre Des Mathurins, in Paris, nothing could have predicted such popularity. The meeting last century between Pierre and Marie Curie and the discovery of radium did not seem to be the kind of subject to draw crowds. Moreover, in the first week, the actors played to empty seats. But the director, Gérard Caillaux, persevered. Gradually, this original page in the history of mankind, treated with humour, thus combining entertainment and cultural enrichment, gained a public to the point of becoming an uncommon success.

Several explanations can be put forward: Jean-Noël Fenwick's comical dialogues, and the quality

of the young actors Stéphane Hillel and Sonia Vollereaux not forgetting Gérard Caillaux himself in the savoury rôle of the head of the Physics School dreaming of winning academic recognition and being decorated by the Minister of Education. Then there is the extraordinary décor by Jacques Voizot, a dusty old garage, cluttered with an astonishing mixture of odds and ends. It is a faithful reconstruction of the shed where the Curies had set up their laboratory and from which a great feeling of poetry emanates. And then... "the theatre obeys rules that nobody knows", Gérard Caillaux smiles. In any case, Jean-Noël Fenwick has succeeded in showing that the two scientists were not austere and ascetic living-dead, but beings of flesh and blood who had genius, enthusiasm, humour, children, money problems and bicycles. The result is stimulating and moving.

When the author came and spoke about his desire to write a play on Pierre and Marie Curie to Gérard Caillaux, the latter immediately commissioned him to do so. Any other theatre director would probably just have shrugged his shoulders. But, since 1984, this former tenured actor of the Comedie Française and an admirer of Louis Jouvet, has maintained the tradition of contemporary creation which had always prevailed at the Theatre Des Mathurins. It was Sacha Guitry who, barely aged 21, had the theatre built in 1906 for the first performance of Nono, his first big comedy.

Then the star of *Les Mathurins* was Jules Berry, an astonishing actor who added more text to the plays that he performed in than the authors had intended! Important actors, such as Harry Baur and Michel Simon, contributed to his success. In 1927, a new breath came from abroad with the arrival of Georges and Ludmilla Pitoëff. They put on plays by G.B. Shaw, Pirandello, Jean Anouilh, Arthur Schnitzler, Claudel, Cocteau and Synge.

Today, Gérard Caillaux, a great discoverer of texts, also takes up the challenge of new creation, not hesitating to suggest subjects that he is interested in to authors. Thus, for this season, the

director of *Les Mathurins* has put *En Attendant Les Boeufs*, a play by Christian Doh, on the programme. He himself hinted the subject to the playwright and staged it himself also acting in it. But the post-*Palmes De Mr. Schutz* period is proving difficult and, after having the greatest success of the century, Gérard Caillaux is experiencing the flop of his career.

En Attendant Les Boeufs is no longer playing and the fact of being able to have a rest after being on stage every evening for five years, is of no consolation to the unhappy director who is puzzled at the failure of the gay and tender comedy set in the Middle Ages. "Maybe the subject, the building of Europe, has discouraged potential spectators. And yet it was a nice story which we had carefully staged with ten actors and several decors... It is all very sad". And when it is suggested that perhaps *Les Mathurins* can rest on the laurels of *Les Palmes De Mr. Schutz*, Gérard Caillaux sighs: "In the theatre, one makes little money and slowly at that, but one loses it quickly and a lot!" — *L'Actualite En France*.



Les Palmes De M. Schutz performed at the Mathurins Theatre in Paris scored an unexpected triumph for Pierre and Marie Curie



Breakthrough in fight to keep bloodbanks free of disease

By Nick Louth
Flour

AMSTERDAM — Imagine the horror of undergoing emergency surgery and finding the blood transfusion which saved your life also gave you a fatal disease.

This is what happened to Anthony Aske, the former U.S. agent star who died of AIDS in 1993 after receiving blood infected with the HIV virus during heart surgery.

It was not an isolated incident.

In the 15 years since the discovery of AIDS, 600,000 people worldwide have contracted the HIV virus through in-

fect blood or blood products. That is 15 per cent of all AIDS infections.

Now research presented at a blood transfusion conference here has spurred hopes that one single method of destroying all diseases in blood has been found.

Experiments in the United States show that natural skin tanning agents called Psoralens, derived from an Egyptian plant, can be added to blood concentrates and when exposed to light destroy the genetic material of any infection they find.

"If successful this will mean by the turn of the century that all blood transfusions will be safe,"

said Paul Strengers, medical head of the Dutch Blood Transfusion Service and organiser of the conference.

Dozens of diseases, bacteria and parasites thrive in blood, including syphilis, the liver diseases hepatitis B and C, and parasitic infections such as malaria.

The doomsday scenario is the emergence of another blood-borne virus as powerful as HIV, which causes AIDS. The AIDS experience shows that by the time tests are developed it could already have been passed on in blood transfusions.

"The assumption we have to work on is that new viruses will enter the

population," said Laurence Corash, medical director at Steritech, one of two Californian firms working on Psoralens.

The other company is Cryopharm of Pasadena, which also presented data to the conference.

"We already have the problem that the HIV substrate zero which has come from West Africa, now beginning to show up in some of the European countries, is not well detected by existing tests," Dr. Corash told Reuters.

Currently, transfusion services have three lines of defence: Screening donors who have a high risk of carrying certain diseases testing all blood dona-

tions for infection and the ability to heat treat some blood components to kill microbes.

There are many disadvantages. Donor screening trims back an often-inadequate supply of donors, tests are laborious and expensive — an average \$20 per blood donation — and cut the shelf-life of the products while results are awaited.

In the developing world, hospitals often do not have enough money or trained staff to use all the tests. But even in the West, where the tests are regularly used, mistakes occur.

The U.S. magazine News And World Report said this month that a five-month investigation

showed hundreds of HIV-contaminated blood donations and 4,200 tainted by hepatitis slip into U.S. bloodbanks each year through errors or accidents.

"We cannot say any blood product is 100 per cent safe concerning the HIV virus or hepatitis," Dr. Strengers said.

Donated blood is split into component parts. Blood plasma, which is used for its proteins, can be heat-treated to kill viruses and infection.

But the red blood cells, used to replenish oxygen after heavy blood loss, and platelets, used to attract clotting factors to the site of a wound, die if heated.

Neither of these cell products can be cleaned

of disease at the moment, which means every blood donation must undergo around seven tests. If infected they are discarded.

Psoralens may offer an answer. A bag of blood concentrate would be put in a machine which would automatically add the chemicals and expose them to light.

Although viruses, bacteria and parasites are very different from each other, they all have strips of genetic material in the centre of their cells which allow them to multiply.

Light-activated Psoralens stitch these protein strips in new chemical bonds, stopping them unzipping to form new cells. If diseases cannot multiply they offer no threat.

A light-sensitive tag on the bag would clearly differentiate treated from untreated blood, and Dr. Corash said the aim would be to make the process simple enough that even junior laboratory assistants could use it without error.

Nevertheless, the process is still at an early stage. Dr. Steritech's treatment for red cell concentrate is not yet patented, though the platelet version should be starting clinical trials by the second quarter of 1995.

"From a clinical and pharmaceutical viewpoint its effects must still be proven," Dr. Strengers added.

China's 'one-child' policy

Threatens alarming social impact

By Willy Brown
Agence France Presse

BEIJING — With its spoiled "little emperors" growing up, China is taking belated steps to try to minimise the potentially far-reaching social impact of its draconian urban family planning policy.

The army of plump, pampered children that has emerged since China moved in 1981 to curb the growth of its vast population by strictly limiting urban couples to one child has long been the object of somewhat amused irritation.

But, with the eldest now approaching adolescence, common traits of greed and selfishness — nurtured by doting parents and grandparents who direct all their family's hopes on a single progeny — can no longer be so easily laughed off in a country where corruption and inefficiency are already major problems.

"The excessive love and protection focused on children has decreased their

practical ability," said child psychologist Wang Baohang. "They've no respect for property, no ability to act independently, little courage and poor ability to communicate."

With 15 years of break-neck development exacerbating the "one-child" policy's negative impact by increasing parents' ability to satisfy their offspring's every whim, a Western family planning expert here expressed concern about the implications for China's future.

"These children have grown up in a time of increasing optimism, increasing wealth," he said. "I dread to think what will happen to the economy with all these people expecting a lot for nothing — the effects could be quite astonishing."

State Family Planning Commission Director Jiang Yiman maintains the government foresaw these problems and has the situation under control, insisting "it's impossible

to have a whole corrupted generation."

But the Western expert doubted the government fully considered the social implications when launching its "one-child" policy, noting that its overriding concern was to limit growth of the 1.2-billion-strong population.

The true extent of official concern about the next generation's ability to shoulder the responsibility of economic development is reflected in the intensification in recent years of a campaign to reform the behaviour of both urban children and their parents.

Special newspapers and schools for parents have emerged in cities nationwide to stress the importance of neither spoiling nor putting excessive pressure to succeed on the country's single children.

Children themselves are targeted by television programmes highlighting the hardships of their rural counterparts, and sent on school outings to learn first-hand how the other half lives.

"We need to reform the education system to stress the need to be civilised, to have morality, to serve the public," said Population Association of China Vice President Wu Gangping.

"If parents and schools can cooperate them single children can be trained to be very good citizens, trained not to be so selfish," he said.

But the Western expert dismissed Chinese officials' "enormous faith" in education as unfounded, saying the "little emperor" syndrome could not be solved without eliminating its cause — the "one-child" policy.

Even Chinese specialists admitted grudgingly that it will be very hard to "remould" many single children — particularly those already 13 or 14 years old — into upstanding citizens.

"This will be a very strange place in the next generation," said the Population and Research Centre's Gu, shaking his head at the prospect.

Italian fertility doctor defends granny-mums

By Samantha Conti
Reuter

ROME — A controversial Italian fertility doctor, whose 62-year-old patient has become the world's oldest mother, said Tuesday he would fight to enable older women and lesbians to conceive through artificial means.

Severino Antinori assisted the pregnancy of Rosanna Della Corte who gave birth to a boy Monday after a donor's fertilised eggs were implanted in her uterus.

He said the decision to conceive artificially should be between a woman and her doctor.

"It is up to the woman to decide whether she wants a child and it is up to her doctor to evaluate that decision," Dr. Antinori told a news conference.

"My colleagues and I will continue to fight for civil rights and the rights of older women and homosexuals to have children."

So-called "granny pregnancies" have unleashed an ethical storm in Roman Catholic Italy, where lack of legislation has made the country a magnet for post-menopausal women who want to have children.

A government-appointed committee recommended last month that scientifically assisted pregnancies should be li-



A December 1992 file photo boy after having a donor's fertilised eggs implanted (AFP 62, who gave birth to a baby photo)

imited to heterosexual couples of childbearing age.

The recommendations serve as non-binding guidelines pending laws on artificial insemination, test-tube fertilisation and other reproductive techniques.

"That committee has no ethics," Dr. Antinori said. "I am calling on the health minister to appoint a new committee to show us whether the government is truly committed to fostering life."

The committee's advice coincided with a controversy over a lesbian who had a baby girl after artificial insemination so she could raise the child with her woman companion.

Dr. Antinori said he did not care whether a woman was married or if she was heterosexual or homosexual. He said his yardsticks were life expectancy and a woman's physical and mental health.

The doctor said he subjected potential patients and their partners to a battery of physical and psychological tests to determine whether they were fit to bear and raise a child.

"I would say that a 63-year-old woman with a life expectancy of between 20 and 25 years is the oldest woman I would help," he said.

He said he had helped many post-menopausal women give birth since

1988 and had rejected more than 400.

Mrs. Della Corte, who is aged 62 years and seven months, gave birth to a 3.3 kilogram boy Monday after treatment at Dr. Antinori's Rome fertility clinic.

Dr. Antinori, who used the sperm of Mr. Della Corte's husband, Mauro, who is in his 60s, to fertilise the donor's eggs, delivered the baby by caesarean section.

Dr. Antinori said Mrs. Della Corte and the child were doing well and that they would leave the hospital in five days' time.

"She is already feeling fine and walking around. It was as if a woman of 20 gave birth," Dr. Antinori said.

Fetuses may feel pain — study

By Randi Hutter Epstein
The Associated Press

LONDON — Even the unborn feel pain, according to preliminary evidence by British researchers.

The findings suggest fetuses should have pain relief when undergoing invasive procedures, such as blood transfusions, said Dr. Nicholas Fisk, the investigator at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London.

The study was published in the latest issue of the Lancet, a medical journal.

"Five or 10 years ago people thought newborns didn't feel pain and now analgesia for newborns is widespread. This is the first direct evidence that the human fetus may experience pain too," Dr. Fisk said in a telephone interview.

Dr. Fisk and his colleagues found a dramatic rise in fetal stress hormones when they inserted a needle into fetuses for blood transfusions.

This is the same chemical response that occurs when children and adults feel pain.

Other experts said the study is intriguing but does not prove fetuses are hurting.

It is difficult to prove that a chemical reaction signals pain without being able to ask the patient because emotions also play a role, experts say.

"I think their nervous system is capable of reacting to painful stimuli, but I think perception builds up with experiences and consciousness and that really comes in post-natal life," said Dr. Maria Fitzgerald, an expert in fetal and infant pain pathways at University College London.

The investigators studied 31 fetuses, between 23 and 34 weeks of gestation, that needed to have blood withdrawn for life-saving procedures. Fifteen fetuses had blood taken from a liver artery, the rest had blood taken from the umbilical cord, which does not have nerves.

Dr. Fisk said although getting blood from the liver is more invasive, in some cases it is necessary when blood cannot be drawn from the cord.

Among fetuses who got a needle in the liver, researchers found a 590 per cent increase in beta-endorphin and 183 per cent increase in cortisol, two stress hormones.

Dr. Fisk said the hor-

mon levels were much higher than those seen in newborns undergoing surgery.

Stress hormones barely rose among the other fetuses.

Dr. Fisk said further research is needed before giving pain-relieving drugs to fetuses, to make sure they do more good than harm.

He also said no one has ever studied human

fetuses younger than 23 weeks.

In the United States, 91 per cent of abortions are done within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Slightly less than 9 per cent are done between 12 and 24 weeks, according to International Planned Parenthood in Washington. Third trimester abortions are usually done only when a mother's life is in danger.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Millstones
2. The Pen is mightier than the Sword.
3. Edinburgh.
4. Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar.
5. Cornwall.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

(A) 222+22+2+2+2=250

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

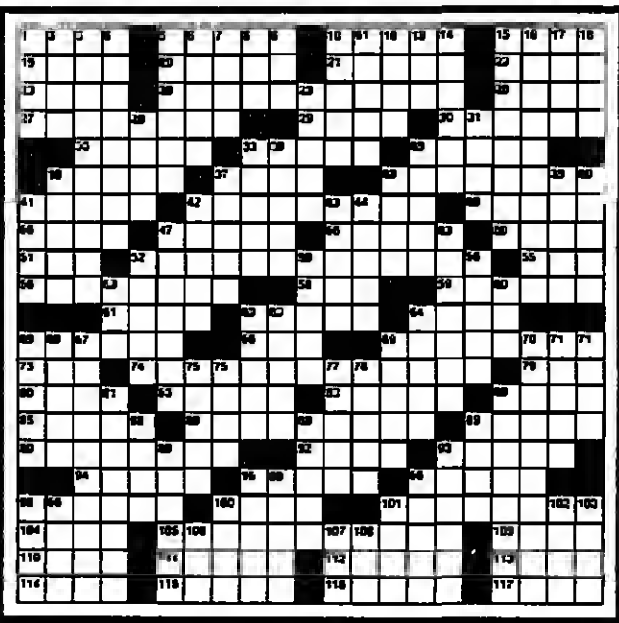
PERSIFLANT

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

A LITTLE ALLEGATION
By Henry Mayer

- ACROSS
- 1 North Sea leader
 - 2 Capital of Belgium
 - 3 Sea, east of Africa
 - 4 Assurances
 - 5 Cock patient
 - 6 Cautious
 - 7 Saviour
 - 8 Army bug
 - 9 Club Scout
 - 10 Broad of
 - 11 Bridge seat
 - 12 Proceeds
 - 13 Reforms, suit
 - 14 Elope seat
 - 15 Portable
 - 16 Headband
 - 17 Marriages
 - 18 Phony
 - 19 Isolated rock
 - 20 25 to next to

- DOWN
- 1 Reflected sound
 - 2 Fight commander
 - 3 Sea, east of Africa
 - 4 Assurances
 - 5 Cock patient
 - 6 Cautious
 - 7 Saviour
 - 8 Army bug
 - 9 Club Scout
 - 10 Broad of
 - 11 Bridge seat
 - 12 Proceeds
 - 13 Reforms, suit
 - 14 Elope seat
 - 15 Portable
 - 16 Headband
 - 17 Marriages
 - 18 Phony
 - 19 Isolated rock
 - 20 25 to next to



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Game Ping-Pong champ scored big win against tall opponent aboard slow boat in China.
2. How can economic forecasters and weathermen often guess wrong but not be fired?
3. Spelling bee contestant has trouble articulating certain letters in syllables.
4. Put "stomachache" in a cryptogram and it may very well bring on a headache in would-be solvers.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. RIIF CO WUELOM IZ MWUE TAEPPCTP
CP NUATIFUL NEWPAD RD ACRWEWD
PREZZ.

—By Ed Huddleston

2. 1 MIAI UGTRAG, TRAGEDY TIAGFC
UGTHRYG UCELY MTRAC ED AKITLC BO
OTRAC OTREU, LTIAGKA, CRA AVRFF
MIXFC LTRAGX.

—By Duane H. McGee

3. OTOPBCRP ARCOE PSB DPCNE
ANIPGNSETX BGOHXX TOIPEPDBO.

—By Barbara J. Ranz

4. ACREZ ULRSFUL PACFT BADTRIP
ADESIRF ZCZBR BULCT UP S PAIRDDS.

—By Frank N. Stein

Signatures 21 & 22, By James Barrick

- ACROSS
- 1 Get ready to
 - 2 Deserving
 - 3 Indigo dye
 - 4 Accident
 - 5 I got it — at
 - 6 "One Day"
 - 7 "Alas Edison"
 - 8 "Cautious" author
 - 9 Burst forth
 - 10 Go slowly
 - 11 Covered before
 - 12 Musical sound

- DOWN
- 1 — matter of fact
 - 2 Deserving
 - 3 Indigo dye
 - 4 Accident
 - 5 I got it — at
 - 6 "One Day"
 - 7 "Alas Edison"
 - 8 "Cautious" author
 - 9 Burst forth
 - 10 Go slowly
 - 11 Covered before
 - 12 Musical sound



King: Overwhelming majority of Jordanians rejoice with me

Rabin: We are committed to build relations of peace

Clinton says Mideast peace "vibrations" resonate in Moscow

WASHINGTON — President Clinton suggested July 26 that the "vibrations" for peace sent out by King Hussein and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may resonate from Washington to Moscow.

As he praised the two leaders for ending the 46-year state of war between Israel and Jordan, Clinton said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had sent a message expressing "how pleased he was by the Mideast accord and also telling Clinton that he had agreed to withdraw Russian troops from Estonia by August 31, a reversal of his public position at the Naples summit July 10.

"I think that King Hussein and the prime minister have put peace in the air all over the world," Mr. Clinton declared at a news conference held jointly with the Jordanian and Israeli leaders.

Following is a transcript of the news conference, as released by the White House:

Mr. Clinton: Good afternoon. I am happy to once again welcome King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin.

In the last two days history has been made in Washington, and a brighter future has been built — a future that offers more peace and security not only for the people of Israel and Jordan, but also for the people of the United States. With great courage and foresight, the King and the prime minister have united in their conviction that it is time to end more than four decades of bloodshed and pain.

They have demonstrated that contact can overcome conflict, that direct talks can produce peace.

They have declared an end to the state of war between their two countries and have determined to secure a lasting peace. They have personally committed to making sure that a treaty is concluded as rapidly as possible.

When we met yesterday, the King, the prime minister and I agreed to designate representatives to ensure that the provisions of the Washington Declaration are implemented quickly.

In the week of extraordinary events, this morning we witnessed another one, as the King and the prime minister appeared jointly before Congress. Their eloquent remarks articulated a common vision of cooperation that will yield specific and concrete benefits for all peoples on both sides of the Jordan River. The outpouring of support by members of Congress for these two heroes of peace, I believe clearly reflect the feelings of all the American people.

As I've made clear since my first meetings with the King and the prime minister, America will stand by those who take risks for peace. We

will support leaders whose boldness and wisdom are creating a new Middle East. Today I have reaffirmed to Prime Minister Rabin that as Israel moves forward in the peace process the constant responsibility of the United States will be to help ensure its security. I have also reaffirmed to King Hussein my determination to assist Jordan in dealing with its burden of debt and its defence requirements. I am working with Congress to achieve rapid action on both these matters.

The United States is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and an end to hostility between Israel and all her Arab neighbors.

I spoke yesterday with President Assad of Syria and reaffirmed my personal dedication to achieving a comprehensive peace. Secretary Christopher has devoted a great deal of time and effort to the negotiations with Syria, and I have asked him to return to the region soon to continue that work.

In these two days we have taken great strides on this road to peace. But even as these two leaders have come together, the enemies of peace have not been silent. In recent days terrorists have struck in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in London. We will not, we must not, allow them to disrupt this peace process.

This week's events here in Washington and the bravery of King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin prove that a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is within reach. Inspired by the extraordinary events of the last two days, now we go forward with a new sense of determination and a new sense of confidence to take the next steps in the days and weeks ahead.

As I turn over the microphone, if I might, to the King and to the prime minister, let me say at the end of the statements we will take press questions in alternating order from the American, the Jordanian and the Israeli press.

King Hussein: Mr. President, Prime Minister Rabin, ladies and gentlemen: These have been unique days in our lives, yesterday and today. They have witnessed dreams, hopes and prayers realised in terms of an end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel. More important in terms of our determination to move ahead in executing our duties towards our people, towards our peoples in the entire region in the present and in the future that they live secure in peace with the ability to come together, for the opportunity to give their talents a chance, to make a difference, to create at the breaking dawn of peace in

the Middle East what is worthy of them.

I would like, Mr. President, to thank you very, very much indeed, sir, for your personal support, continued interest. We are proud to have you as our partner. We are proud and happy that these meetings between myself and Prime Minister Rabin have taken place here in Washington. We are overwhelmed by all the warmth and support that we have seen during these last two days. We recall and appreciate the efforts of the secretaries of state, the efforts of so many friends here that enabled us to get this far.

I hope, together, we will build from now on and will continue and succeed in giving all our peoples the chance to live under conditions that have been denied us, certainly as far as I'm concerned throughout my life. And I am proud to say that the overwhelming majority of Jordanians rejoice with me, as I am sure is the case in Israel and here in the United States.

Thank you very, very much.

Mr. Rabin: Mr. President, Your Majesty King Hussein, ladies and gentlemen: I believe that the last two days represent a landmark in the positive developments towards peace in the Middle East. I believe to understand the meaning of what has been done by Jordan and Israel, with the assistance, support of the United States, has to be looked at in proportion to what are the trends today in the Middle East.

We see two conflicting trends in the Middle East — one, the rise for extreme, radical Islamic terrorist movements within the Palestinian side, within the Lebanese side, in other Arab countries, derived from a certain source that each purpose is undermining any possibility to achieve peace. I believe that we see their fingers in the international terror acts that have taken place not so far ago in Thailand, in Buenos Aires, in London, in addition to what goes on from Lebanon and in the territories by the extreme radical Islamic terrorist groups. It's an all-out war waged by these elements against the possibility of the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its parts.

I believe that they have got an infrastructure of terror all over the world. We saw it lately in Argentina. I don't want to talk about what's going on here, in Europe, in the Far East, in addition to the Middle East.

And, therefore, what we have done in the last two days is a major step of brave people on both sides to come up and to say, we are making an important, important phase towards peace, because the Washington Declaration is,

first and foremost, an end of a state of belligerency — or as the King declared, end of state of war. Believe me, today in the Middle East, to reach commitment by the countries of the region for non-belligerency, no violence no terror, can be the greatest contribution to peace in the region, and not only in the region.

Between Jordan and Israel we have reached the end of the state of belligerency. But there is a need beyond the end of war, threats of war, violence and terror, to build a structure of peace, the relations of peace. We lay the foundations to this world, to this work, to this place. The test will be to what extent we will succeed to build this structure of peace — to reach the kind of relations between Jordan and Israel that the man in the street in Amman and in Tel Aviv will call it a peace.

Therefore, hard work is before us. We are committed, I believe, on both sides to do what is needed in addition to the elimination of war — to build the relations of peace. We need your assistance, Mr. President in doing so.

The first responsibility lies with the parties, with Jordan and Israel. But without — the United States, the leader of peace in the region, hopefully other countries, the European Union, assisting those who take risks, calculated risks for peace, we will not achieve it in the way and the pace which it is needed.

We open a new chapter. We created a new landmark. But the road is still, hopefully not too long, but still work has to be done. We will do it. We need participation of those who preach peace to translate their words to realities, to practical support of those who take the risk for peace.

Thank you very much.

Question: I'd like to direct my question to Prime Minister Rabin. Mr. Prime Minister, when do you expect to pull your occupation troops out of southern Lebanon?

Mr. Rabin: As you know, there were three years of war in Lebanon which the purpose then declared by the government of Israel was to eliminate Lebanon as a basis for terrorism. In '85 the government — then the prime minister was Shimon Peres and I was the minister of defence; it was a national unity government — we decided to pull out. But in the absence of central government in Lebanon, in the absence of military and security forces that can take control of each corner of the soil, and with the continuation of at least Syrian division on the Lebanese soil and from the area that the Syrian army is deployed — Hezbollah takes

action against us. There are still members of the revolutionary guards of Iran there.

We have made it clear, and I repeat it, in the context of a peace treaty with Lebanese government that will be in full control of its own sovereign soil, Israel will agree to peace treaty. We don't seek one square inch of Lebanese territory. The border there is defined. There is an international border, and we will respect it. We are not seeking one cubic metre of their water. All that we want, peace treaty and their capability to maintain control of their own land. I believe they are capable if somebody from the outside will not interfere and will prevent it.

Q: Mr. Rabin, I'd like to ask you a question. We've seen the historic handshake and the Washington Declaration. But there is a topic that was rarely discussed, and that is, now that Israel is moving very quickly on the Palestinian and Jordanian front, and hopefully will have — with the advent of peace in the Middle East, with other Arab countries, what does Israel intend to do with its huge arsenal of nuclear weapons?

Mr. Rabin: Well, as you know, Israel is not a nuclear country in terms of weapons and, therefore, your question is not relevant. We are committed to the United States for many years not to be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But, at the same time, we cannot be blind to efforts that are made in certain Muslim and Arab countries in this direction.

Therefore, I can sum it up. We'll keep our commitment not to be the first to introduce, but we still look ahead to the dangers that others will do it and we have to be prepared for it.

Q: Mr. President, I would like to ask you when do you hope to see the president of Syria, President Assad, standing next to you like his Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel? And what are you prepared to do in order to achieve it?

Mr. Clinton: Let me say, as you know, I have already met with President Assad once for an extended period of time in Geneva. We have talked many times on the phone, and the secretary of state has been to Syria on several occasions, and we are working hard there. But in the end, the lesson of the successes which have been enjoyed over the past year is that the best thing the United States can do is to help to create the conditions within which the parties themselves feel secure in making peace. This is an agreement made by Israel and Jordan. In September we had an agreement freely made by Israel

and the PLO. What remains is for sovereign states with great interests and long histories to reach an accord. My job will be to create the conditions insofar as I am humanly capable for such a peace to be made, but the decisions will have to be made by them. And the successes of the last year rest on that fundamental understanding.

Q: Mr. President, it is widely believed that Hizbollah was responsible for some of the recent bombings in Buenos Aires and Panama, if not also in London. Did you discuss that with President Assad? Do you believe that more pressure should be brought against Iran by Germany, France, other of our allies who have had very friendly relations with Iran? Do you believe that Hizbollah could operate as it has in Damascus and Southern Lebanon without the complicity of President Assad?

I'd also like to ask Your Majesty if you could comment on that, and also the prime minister, on Hizbollah as well.

Mr. Clinton: Well, let me say first of all, I condemn — the United States condemns the terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires and in London. They are, in all probability, of too recent vintage for anyone to be absolutely certain what the source of them is, but I think it is reasonable to assume that terrorists who wish to be the enemies of peace are behind it.

I did discuss the terrorism issue with President Assad in Geneva. I have continued to press with our friends and neighbours, our allies, the importance of standing up against nations which support terrorism. Trying to stem the expansion of terrorism is a major objective of the United States. And I think that there is a good chance that this agreement between Jordan and Israel, juxtaposed against the horrible events in Buenos Aires and the attempt at a horrible result in London, may stiffen the resolve of other countries around the world to help us to move against this.

And I think we must all try to do more. I am committed to do more. I think everyone in the United States would want us to do more against terrorism. And we're going to have to have some more help from our allies. We cannot allow the enemies of peace to prevail.

Q: May we have comments —

Mr. Clinton: Sure.

Q: Can you comment on that also?

King Hussein: I believe, Mr. President, that the enemies of peace is the right description — the enemies of life; the enemies of human relations between human beings; the enemies of hope;

the enemies of security; the enemies of what should be normal between people. We have always stood against terror and terrorism and we have paid a heavy price.

I condemn these recent deaths. And, in fact, just a while ago we were discussing amongst ourselves — myself and some of my colleagues — the need for us to increase our vigil in the time ahead because more may come.

However, I believe that this is a challenge we face, to speak for what we believe in, to speak for the overwhelming majority of people. We are Muslims in Jordan, and Christians. We live as members of one family. Nothing irritates me more or is more painful to me than to witness and see acts and attitudes attributed to Islam that have nothing to do with Islam, my faith and my religion. But I believe this is extremism as we know it in our world. People with hinders, with no vision.

I believe that what we have achieved here in Washington, and our commitment to make a difference, to continue to dealing with every aspect of the building of the house of peace in our region in terms of negotiations to come, work to do be done, and to have all this culminate in a peace treaty between us, hopefully in the context of a comprehensive peace, is our best answer to those who try to continuously destroy it everywhere in our region.

Mr. Rabin: The Hizbollah is very active daily, equipped with modern weapons, Russian-made, Soviet-made anti-tank — mortars, anti-tank weapons, artillery. To the best of our knowledge, it comes from Iran via Syria — might be lately in reduced number. Their forces are deployed. The bases — one of the bases that we attacked was in area in the Baqa in which the Syrian army is deployed.

If you ask me who is the boss of Hizbollah, I would say, Iran. If you ask me, if Syria can put limitations on its activities, my answer will be yes. If you ask me for proof of that, in July, in response to prolonged — by Hizbollah, we went and used firepower in Southern Lebanon. And we worked out certain understanding through the good offices of the United States, in which the secretary of state was involved.

The talks were, to the best of my knowledge, with the Syrians. If the Syrians could reach understanding, limit part of the activity of Hizbollah, it means that they have got at least preventing capability vis-a-vis Hizbollah. If you ask me, do they want to use it, my answer is in a very limited way.

Q: Your Majesty, do you believe that it is time to con-

vene the Arab family of nations in order to support these agreements which were signed between Jordan and Israel and between the Palestinians and Israel, and make ways in order to clear the political environment which is very poisoned in the Arab world, and prepare and begin for the reconciliation process between the family of the Arab world?

King Hussein: I believe this is inevitable. And at the same time I know that you know that we have been trying to get that for a long period of time. It will happen I hope, and before too long.

Q: Your Majesty, what does it take when more is still needed to be done for your grandson and my son — who have met before, but abroad — to meet respectively in Amman and Tel Aviv? And also, since we have a live broadcast to Israel, would you care to carry a message directly to the Israeli people?

King Hussein: I hope to share with the people of Israel the hopes that the people of Jordan share with me that we are on the verge of the breaking of a new dawn for all our peoples for a secure, safe future; for a future of peace, cooperation; for human relations to develop and grow between us. And I hope that the answer will come as a result of our joint efforts, which I hope, following this meeting, we will be able to shepherd both the prime minister and myself, in terms of the tasks ahead of negotiating on all aspects of the problems that we still have to resolve. In other words, using his words, the building blocks of peace that will culminate in a peace treaty hopefully before long.

I hope it won't be long before we suggest will happen.

Mr. Clinton: Let me say one other thing before we leave. I think that King Hussein and the prime minister have put peace in the air all over the world.

A few hours ago, I received a message from President Yeltsin saying, first of all, how pleased he was about what had happened here between Jordan and Israel; and secondly, that he had reached agreement with President Man of Estonia to withdraw all Russian troops from Estonia by August the 31st.

As you know, this has been one of the principal objectives of American policy, so that now, for the first time since the end of World War II, on the last day of August there will be no more Russian troops in Germany or anywhere in Eastern Europe. And I think maybe the vibrations of peace that the king and the prime minister have sent out — who knows what may be announced tomorrow.

Trilateral talks resume

(Continued from page 1)

He told congressmen: "With your help, I am certain that the imbalance between our societies can be remedied."

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Majali met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a Jordanian hotel on the Dead Sea last week to discuss joint Israeli-Jordanian economic projects.

The talks continued in Washington Wednesday, at

the sixth session of the trilateral economic committee.

Both Israel and Jordan also spoke of the threat to peace from terrorism, during a joint press conference with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House on Tuesday.

King Hussein said he had discussed with his senior officials the need to be on the alert for possible terrorist operations.

Despite opposition to the Israeli-Jordanian summit from opposition deputies in Jordan, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri said: "The majority of Parliament supports it."

But Mr. Masri, in Washington with the King, warned: "The state of non-belligerence between Jordan and Israel will be used by the Islamists as a platform for their operation."

Therefore Jordan had to obtain "firm pledges of economic aid from Washington to allow it to fight against poverty, which leads to despair and extremism," Mr. Masri said.

"We must avoid a situation where, once the euphoria of the Washington meeting has vanished, Jordan finds itself alone again to face the challenge to peace."

Regent sends message to King

(Continued from page 1)

Amari said. Referring to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the wake of the Washington Declaration, the minister said that the question of Jerusalem will acquire priority in future talks.

"King Hussein deserves to be the custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem in recognition of his efforts to safeguard these places over the years," the minister said. He

said the future of the city can be settled through Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations.

"The declaration represented general principles on the path towards final peace, which would be acceptable to Jordanians, Israelis, Syrians and Americans," he said, adding that there would be no final and just peace unless all issues on the other tracks were solved.

The minister paid tribute to the United States for its role in the peace process.

PLO wants Arab meeting

(Continued from page 1)

PLO leader Yasser Arafat lobbied Arab leaders Tuesday for support over the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.

He telephoned King Hassan of Morocco, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defence minister.

On Tuesday, Dr. Shaath said the Washington agreement was a positive step that could stimulate progress in talks between Israel and Syria.

"What happened in Washington is a continuation of the peace process. Of course, as far as we are concerned, that's a step towards the Syrian and the Lebanese agreement, and liberating occu-

pled Syrian and Lebanese land.

"Jordan entering this process will also bring back Jordanian territory so we think it's an achievement towards a comprehensive agreement. Progress on the Jordanian track is positive and we want to see that reflected on the Syrian track."

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinians merely wanted to know what the implications of the agreement were.

"Is it a reference of support for the Arab status, the Palestinian status of Jerusalem, is it a reference to general support for the religious places, is it in any way a change in the declaration of principles which we have with the Israelis? It's just a question of trying to understand," he said.

Self-rule talks progress

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank as Israeli troops pull out from population centres allowing elections to take place.

"We had an agreement and a timetable... and we expected if Israel were to withdraw around 10 to 15 Sept, we would need a month to prepare for elections, so we spoke about Oct. 15," Dr. Erakat said.

"If Israel doesn't withdraw, we can't run elections, neither local nor general."

He said he had been in consultation with the European Union, which is providing training and facilities for the elections to a Palestinian council which will take over responsibility for daily affairs in Gaza and the West Bank for the five years of self-rule.

Before the 481 polling stations can open, laws have to be regulated and unified between the West Bank and Gaza, each of which still follows a mixture of old Turkish, British and Egyptian legal systems.

Dr. Erakat said a new election law was being drafted and would be ready in a week.

Former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi warned of two dangers for elections.

"It must be this year," she told AFP. The Palestinians had to get sorted out to organise the vote.

"Israeli ill will is very

alarming," Dr. Ashrawi added, noting that the Israelis were increasingly talking only of municipal and not general elections.

"Israeli redeployment is the priority and we have to concentrate on this issue."

"Elections are crucial," said Dr. Ashrawi, who now heads a human rights group. "They are the sine qua non for the health of a nation."

"We need concrete steps, such as a new census, an electoral system."

The man responsible for finance in the Palestinian self-rule authority had given just \$12 million to the PLO in the last two months despite promises of much more.

Mohammad Al Nashashibi also said in an interview with the Jerusalem newspaper Al Quds on Wednesday the self-rule authority was not yet raising taxes to cover its \$580 million annual budget and that Palestinian police salaries had been reduced.

"The Palestinian treasury suffers from a deficit and what has come in so far from donor states is only \$12 million since the arrival of the Palestinian police despite (the donors') undertaking to cover the deficit," Mr. Nashashibi said.

International donors promised about \$720 million in the first year of Palestinian self-rule, part of \$2.4 billion

vouched over five years.

But most of that is allocated to development projects, not the running costs of government. Donors are unhappy about how the PLO will use funds and have handed over little despite months of high-level meetings and frantic PLO appeals.

Mr. Nashashibi rejected the term "pay cut" to describe the reduction of police salaries, saying policemen were simply back on the same salaries they had had in exile in Arab states.

Palestinian sources say local commanders promised police salaries of about \$450 a month when they first entered Gaza and Jericho. But PLO leader Yasser Arafat later overruled them and cut this back to about \$260 a month.

Mr. Nashashibi said the tax department could not raise revenues effectively because Israeli administrators had not handed over computer disks outlining the tax status of Palestinians.

He said Saudi Arabia had offered to train Palestinian officials for finance and other departments as part of its backing for self-rule.

Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said on Sunday Israel would return immediately to the Palestinians \$2.5 million in funds collected as customs duties

sease

A light-sensitive tag in the bag would clearly differentiate treated from untreated blood, and Dr. Borash said the aim would be to make the process simple enough that even minor laboratory assistants could use it without error.

Nevertheless, the process is still at an early stage. Dr. Steritech's treatment for red cell concentrate is not yet patented, though the sterile version should be ready for clinical trials by the second quarter of 1995.

"From a clinical and pharmaceutical viewpoint its effects must still be proven," Dr. Strengers said.

for
ms



ing a donor's fertility

implanted (AFP)

and had rejected more than 400. Mrs. Della Corte, who had 62 years and seven children, gave birth to a 3.3 gram boy Monday afternoon at Dr. Antonio's Rome fertility clinic.

Antinori, who used sperm of Mr. Della Corte's husband, Mauro, in his 60s, to fertilise the donor's eggs, delivered the baby by caesarean section.

Antinori said Mrs. Corte and the child doing well and that would leave the hospital in five days' time. She is already feeling and walking around as if a woman of 20.

Dr. Antinori

tudy

s younger than 23

the United States. 91 per cent of abortions are within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Less than 9 per cent are done between 12 and 24 weeks, according to the National Planned Parenthood Federation in Washington. Third trimester abortions are usually done only if the mother's life is in

75

LEDGE

Sword.

Central banks warned about hidden risks of derivatives

BASLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Two leading economic organisations sent out directives to central banks Wednesday warning them of the hidden dangers of derivatives.

The Basic Committee, grouping the governors of the central banks of the Group of Ten nations, sent central banks a document designed to facilitate "prudent management of the risk linked to derivatives."

And the technical committee of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions published directives Wednesday warning that stockbrokers faced the same risks as banks in dealing in

derivatives and needed to manage them in the same way.

Derivatives are financial instruments, including currency options, used by investors to build up positions to guard against fluctuating exchange rates.

The two committees said "the growth in the complexity, the diversity and the volume of derivatives, on the back of rapid progress in the field of technology and communications, presents a growing challenge regarding the management of these risks."

The Basic document set out directives for banking authorities to help them evolve

sound practices for the internal management of such risks, which was essential to the stability of the world banking system.

In essence the committee recommended close and sustained scrutiny of the risks through ongoing evaluation, monitoring and control.

It also stressed the need for accurate and reliable management computer systems, and said that management should be given adequate notice of audit and control procedures.

It said the contingency fund it had set up to cover credit risks linked to derivatives was not sufficient, and recommended the applica-

tion of common guidelines on central bank contingency funds to cover risks, including those associated with derivatives.

The authors of the reports said they were convinced the principles they set out held good for market operators and users alike, whether or not they were regulated, as soon as there was major dealing in derivatives, especially during negotiations.

The Basic Committee was set up by the Group of Ten central banks in 1975, and sits at the Basle headquarters of the Bank for International Settlements, sometimes described as the central banks' central bank.

Most Japanese exporters unable to break even with dollar below 100 yen

TOKYO (AFP) — Most Japanese exporters are unable to break-even if the dollar stays below 100 yen, with 94.6 per cent requiring a stronger dollar for their exports to be profitable, Asahi Bank Ltd. said Wednesday.

But the bank, announcing the results of a survey of 586 companies, also said that the dollar's average break-even point for Japanese exporters had fallen from 115.90 yen to 107.40 yen over the past year.

The survey found the profits of 38.2 per cent of the companies would fall below target unless the dollar rose above 100 yen.

But 34.6 per cent said the Japanese economy was expected to recover even if the dollar remained around 100 yen over the next 12 months, while only 3.2 per cent expected the economy to deteriorate with the dollar at this level.

The Asahi Bank survey was released two days after a separate survey by the international trade and industry ministry, which showed 97 per cent of small- and medium-sized exporters were suffering from the yen's appreciation.

The ministry's survey of 700 exporters showed 65 per cent had already been adversely affected by the strong yen, while 32 per cent were bracing for foreign exchange losses.

Most companies complained about declines in the number of export contracts received as well as reductions in prices. Others commented they were being pressed by intensified competition against cheap imports, the ministry said.

In a move to offset the strong yen, Japan's Hitachi Ltd. plans to boost its offshore production of home appliances to more than 70 per cent of overseas sales over the next three years.

The ratio is expected to jump from 58 per cent in the year just ended to 67 per cent in the year to March, a spokeswoman said. Overseas production of home appliances is expected to rise from 31 per cent of all sales to 35 per cent in the same period.

In a further effort to offset the strong yen, Hitachi also plans to reduce exports to less than 20 per cent of total sales by March 1997, by which time overseas output

of home appliances is to exceed 70 per cent of sales abroad.

Hitachi expects the measures to help its home appliance division return to the black in the fiscal year ending in 1997. The division has suffered operating losses for three years, with losses in the latest year widening four per cent from a year earlier to 46 billion yen (\$460 million).

The company, Japan's biggest manufacturer of electrical machinery, also plans to boost imports from overseas plants over the next three years.

Imports are expected to climb to 30 per cent of domestic sales for video cassette recorders and 20 per cent for televisions and air conditioners, up from the current level of less than 10 per cent, the spokeswoman said.

Pakistan sets \$7.8b export target

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan is expecting a 16 per cent increase in exports during the coming fiscal year, commerce Minister Ahmad Mukhtar said Tuesday.

Mr. Mukhtar said exports in the fiscal year 1994/5 (July/June) would increase to \$7.83 billion from \$6.75 billion last year. Imports for 1994/95 were estimated to increase by 15.2 per cent to \$9.8 billion against \$8.5 billion in 1993/94, he added.

Mr. Mukhtar made the remarks during a news conference called to explain a liberal trade policy announced Monday, which offers concessions to export-oriented industries and lifts a ban on many imports.

"We are so liberal that there is no country in South Asia which has such a liberal trade policy," he said.

Mr. Mukhtar said one of the policy's aims was to prepare Pakistani firms for a freer global trading system following implementation of the Uruguay round trade agreement in 1995.

It will seek to stimulate exports, encourage efficient and competitive import substitution, and ensure greater transparency by minimising administrative controls, he said.

Other aims of the policy include the simplification of procedures, improved availability of essential commodities, and the adoption of tariff measures instead of quantitative restrictions.

Mr. Mukhtar said the policy will ease the inflow of new technology, strengthen research and development capabilities and improve human resources in the export sector.

UAE issues amended rules on large bank exposures

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has issued new rules which limit the amount local banks can lend to their board of directors and restrict lending by foreign banks, bankers said Wednesday.

The UAE's 27 foreign banks and 18 local banks must report on Sept. 30 that they are in the process of complying with the rules issued last week in the UAE central bank circular, bankers said.

The circular of more than 50 pages, an amendment to rules the central bank first introduced last year to cut down on risky lending, addresses the concerns of local banks but does not appear to answer the principle concern of foreign banks.

The rules as first issued said a bank in the UAE could not lend more than seven per cent of its capital to a private borrower or more than 25 per cent of capital to a public one.

Foreign banks wanted the limits to apply to the capital held by their head office instead of their local UAE capital, but the amendments do not mention allowing foreign banks to apply the rule to global capital, bankers said.

"It did not make any mention of it. It did not tackle the concerns of the foreign banks," said a senior foreign banker.

This means foreign banks will probably have to import more capital or cut back on their lending. Some foreign banks have already raised their capital since January. The minimum they can keep in the UAE is 40 million dirhams (\$11 million).

The new circular shows that the central bank eased the seven per cent limit to apply only to funded exposures — where a bank puts money up front to a customer, such as in a loan — as opposed to unfunded exposure such as letters of credit. Local banks had protested

the restrictions would cause them to lose business at a time when the local economy was booming.

The circular also said a bank's board of directors and any company affiliated to a board member were not included in the exemption on unfunded exposures, bankers said.

"In my interpretation there is some ambiguity. In the case of board of directors the rules refer to all funded and unfunded exposures," said the general manager of a local bank. "But the detailed instructions appear to allow exceptions."

Central bank officials declined to comment.

The revised guidelines also spell out the risk weighting of off-balance sheet instruments.

Bankers also said they were told the UAE was re-missing a federal law governing the central bank's activity, but no further details were immediately available.

S. Korea loses nearly \$1b from strike wave

SEOUL (AFP) — The current wave of industrial strikes in South Korea, affecting 38 companies, has cost almost a billion dollars in lost sales, the Ministry of Trade, Energy and Industry said Wednesday.

Among the 38, 11 companies including the Hyundai Heavy Industries, the nation's largest shipyard, are still experiencing full or partial strikes, as workers demand wage rises and better conditions.

A ministry spokesman said

that, as of Tuesday, \$772.4 million had been lost in domestic sales and \$227.7 million in exports.

Hyundai Heavy Industries, hardline unionists of which are continuing a 34-day strike in its Ulsan plant, said the company has sustained sales losses of 338 billion won (\$417.5 million).

He said one day's total strike cost the company 18 billion won, and that the subsidiary had at least \$210 million in exports, he said.

Thousands fear collapse of Russian investment fund

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of Russians queued outside the country's best-known investment fund Wednesday after the organisation stopped buying back its shares in most locations.

Some had waited overnight to sell their shares, fearing the heavy train of endlessly rising prices had come to an abrupt halt.

"It seemed like a golden opportunity, buying shares at 50,000 roubles (\$24) and selling them a few weeks later at 100,000 (\$48)," said Alexander, a doctor. "I would have sold three days ago if only I had known."

The company, MMM, had promised rising buy-back prices in aggressive daily

advertisements on Russian television. It said its shares could be freely bought and sold and published quoted prices in newspapers and in nightly broadcasts every day.

"Hurry to buy, don't hurry to sell," said one slogan from MMM, which claimed 10 million Russians had bought its shares.

But the sell option seemed to shrink this week when the firm stopped buying shares in most locations after series of warnings about its financial health. It had 60 offices in Moscow and 76 more in 49 Russian regions.

Officials at the Russian finance ministry had likened MMM to a classic pyramid scheme, where cash from

new share purchases is used to buy back old shares at ever rising prices.

When new investment dries up, the cash to pay dividend or buy shares back at higher rates dries up as well.

Tax officials accused the company of irregularities.

On Wednesday signs posted outside branch offices told investors to go to the headquarters in southern Moscow. But at headquarters a chaotic queue snaked its way around the building as investors waited for news.

Traffic tailed back for several kilometres along the busy Varshavskoye Chaussee as investors struggled to park. Many abandoned their cars

on the pavement and walked the last few hundred metres.

"We are not buying shares at our branch offices at the moment because the police cannot provide security for people buying shares and for the money being delivered," MMM spokesman Georgy Afanasyev said by telephone.

"The interior ministry has promised that by Friday they would provide security for people buying shares," he added.

The shares traded at about 110,000 roubles (\$54) before the firm halted the automatic buy-back this week. A few investors offered 30,000, 40,500 roubles (\$15, \$20, \$24) to buy shares outside the headquarters on Wednesday.

But most were queuing to sell.

"I want to buy a car with the money from my shares," said scientist Pavel, 62. "There is no way I can afford a new car with the money I earn now, but with the help of MMM I can."

But ITAR-TASS news agency quoted a top official at the finance ministry as saying an abrupt end to a share buy-back offer should not have been a surprise.

"The whole MMM system is only based on using the money received from sale of shares to pay to buy them back," the official said. "Sooner or later the system will lead to bankruptcy."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get cracking on that pesky problem this morning and get it resolved in the Am because the triple squares to Neptune, Jupiter and Mercury this evening will prove to be disruptive and counterproductive.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make those improvements at home which will bring more harmony and happiness to you and those around you. Study new worthwhile outlets.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make long-range plans to have more profitable days in the future. Adopt a more logical outlook on life and you will see advancement.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good time to engage in some new enterprise and gain more prestige. Maintain a cheerful manner at all times and others will be pleased to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you pursue personal aims in a positive fashion, you can gain them easily. Take steps to improve your health and vitality.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Confer with influential persons who can give you the advice you need for a new project. Strive for more harmony with family members and friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) After business matters are properly handled,

get together with good friends and enjoy social pleasures. Be poised for any situation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can communicate very well now with higher-ups and can easily advance in career activities. Use calm in motion so you will not be injured.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New situations come up in which you can gain benefits if you handle them well. Express happiness with family members and close friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go through with whatever you have in mind in connection with a close tie and get excellent results for your efforts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is an ideal day to make new deals in connection with associates with good results. Don't be too demanding of others around you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Schedule your tasks well in the morning and then all works out smoothly the rest of the day. Use common sense in your endeavours.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use practical sense in all your business dealings at this time. You can realize a most cherished aim if you apply yourself more.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 29, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Steer clear of an irate associate who wants to pull you in to their discontent. Just don't get involved and avoid changing any present arrangement you have made regarding this individual.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be clever at handling any personal affairs and know better what is on the minds of others. Attend a group affair to which you have been invited.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study every angle of any matter which faces you and become more productive. Positive thinking could be helpful to now and in the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get the cooperation of friends who can help you gain a most cherished aim. Something good can come of this if you are patient in your desire.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have greater abundance in the days ahead. If you are diplomatic you can gain the backing you need for a new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Know your true position in a financial matter and take steps to improve it. This is a fine day to study new outlets which could mean added income.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Figure out what

you want the most in the future and then make plans to gain your aims. Think constructively about what you most desire.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Listen to what a clever friend has to suggest for improving deals you both are involved in. Strive for happiness with whatever you do.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Concentrate on how you can be more productive in the future. Show increased devotion to family members and close associates.

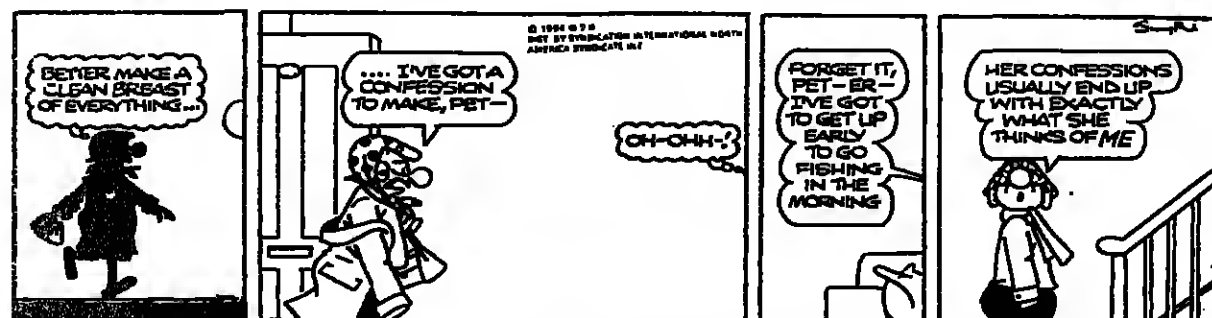
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Handle important business wisely early in the day. Then enjoy recreation which relieves tensions and anxieties which could trouble you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make concrete plans to have a more abundant life in the future. Use the right methods to solve a difficult problem which concerns you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Strive to have more harmonious relations with close ties. Allow time for recreational activities you enjoy to participate in.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Obtain the advice you need from a financial expert and improve your status considerably. Be more optimistic about the future.

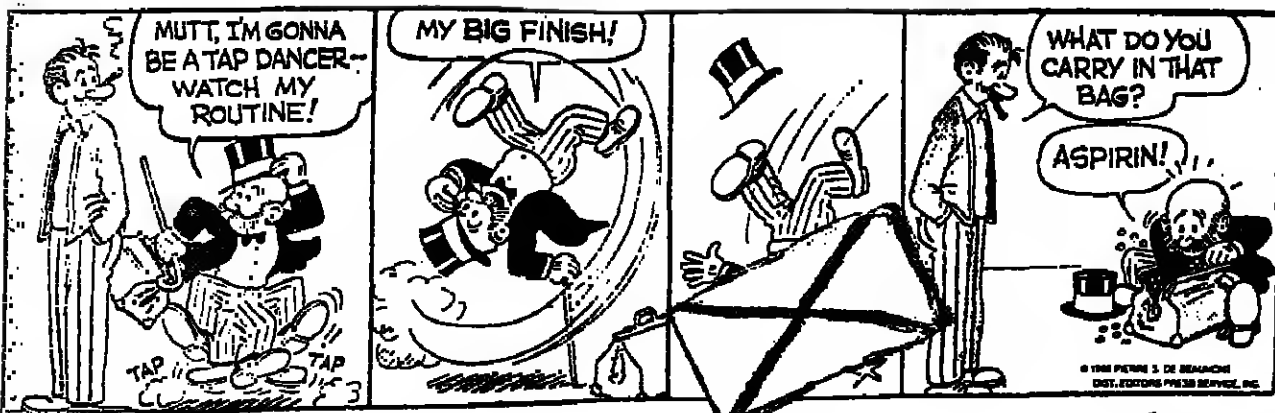
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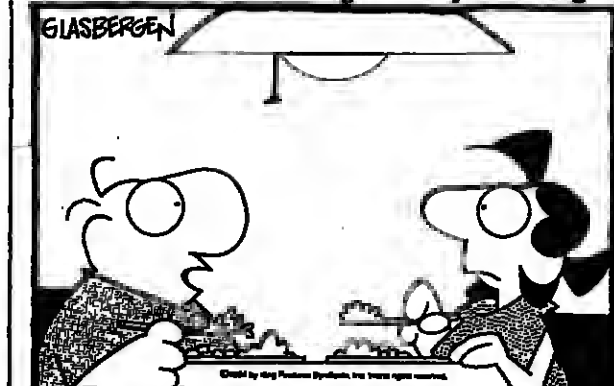
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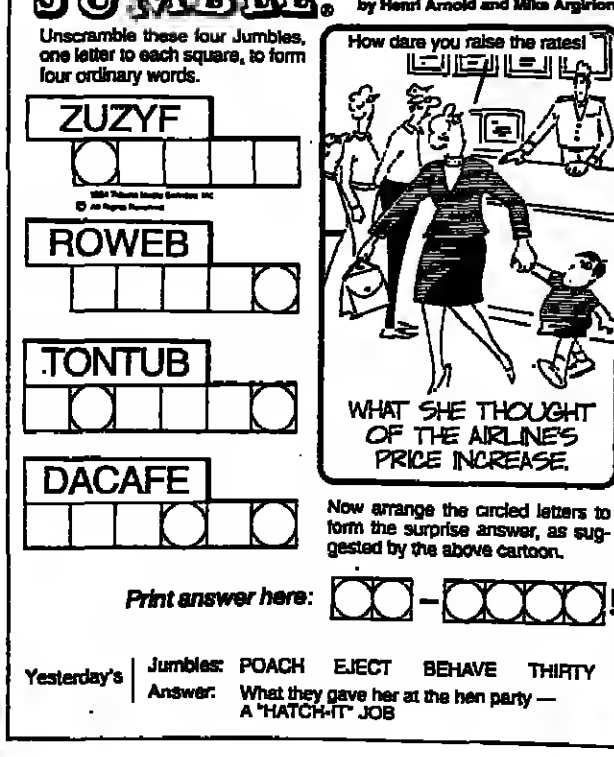
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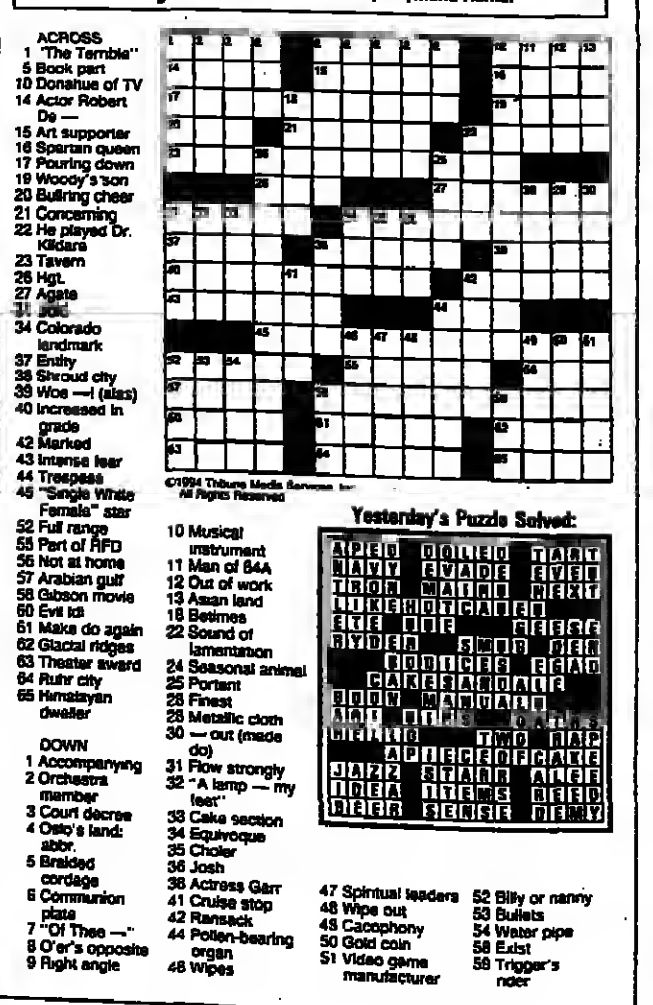
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JUMBLE



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st manufacturer of electronic machinery, also plans to import most of its components over the next three months to 30 per cent of its sales for video cassette recorders and 20 per cent for televisions and other electronic products, up from the current level of less than 10 per cent, the spokeswoman said.

COPE

Y JULY 28, 1994

Parroll Righter Foundation

together with good friends to enjoy social pleasures. Be sure to have a good time.

IRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a time to communicate very well with your superiors and can easily advance in your career activities. Use in motion so you will not be injured.

PROPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New situations are up in which you can gain profits if you handle them with care and close friends.

ITARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go with whatever you are in mind in connection with a close tie and get excellent results for your efforts.

RICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is an ideal time to make new connections with associates and good results. Don't be too kind of others around.

ARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Schedule your work in the morning and all works out smoothly at the end of the day. Use common sense in your decisions.

ES: (February 20 to March 20) Use practical sense in your business dealings at home. You can realize a cherished aim if you appraise yourself more.

Y JULY 29, 1994

Parroll Righter Foundation

ant the most in the future when make plans to gain profits. Think constructively about what you most desire.

AI: (September 23 to October 22) Listen to what a friend has to suggest for saving deals you both are in. Strive for happiness whatever you do.

PIO: (October 23 to November 21) Concentrate on you can be more productive in the future. Show devotion to family and close associates.

TARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Handle any business wisely early in the day. Then enjoy recreation which relieves tensions and anxieties which could follow.

CORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make concrete plans for a more abundant future. Use the right to solve a difficult problem in which concerns you.

US: (January 21 to February 19) Strive to have harmonious relations with ties. Allow time for social activities you can participate in.

SI: (February 20 to March 20) Obtain the advice of a financial expert to improve your status. Be more optimistic about the future.

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.5244	1.5267
Deutsche Mark	1.5850	1.5806
Swiss Franc	1.3454	1.3410
French Franc	5.4098	5.4010**
Japanese Yen	98.25	98.05
European Currency Unit	1.2075	1.2088**

USD Per STG: European Opening 1.500 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit

Date: 27/7/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.15	4.56	5.00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.93	5.06	5.31	6.00
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.87
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.12	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.50	5.68
Japanese Yen	1.87	2.00	2.00	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.81	6.00	6.25

Interbank bid rates for American currencies 1% Dollar, London or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 27/7/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6930	0.6950
Sterling Pound	1.0574	1.0627
Deutsche Mark	0.4376	0.4398
Swiss Franc	0.5155	0.5185
French Franc	0.1282	0.1288
Japanese Yen	0.7061	0.7096
Dutch Guilder	0.3697	0.3916
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.043
Spanish Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies

Date: 27/7/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8220	1.8350
Lebanese Lira	0.040295	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1845	0.1860
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3140	2.3300
Qatari Riyal	0.1690	0.1704
Egyptian Pound	0.2040	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7810	1.7960
UAE Dirham	0.1681	0.1891
Greek Drachma	0.2665	0.3155
Cypriot Pound	1.3475	1.4650

Swiss to slap tax on sex trade

BERN, Switzerland (AFP) — Swiss prostitutes will be asked to hand over value added tax (VAT) — 6.5 per cent — from next year, a move expected to add tens of millions of francs to government coffers, tax officials said Wednesday.

Senior fiscal official Francois Gaudin said VAT would be slapped on earnings from prostitution — on and off the streets — once the profession had been reclassified as part of the service industries.

Because it had been classified as a "therapeutic" trade, it had been exempt from VAT payments.

Tax officials provided no statistics on the number of prostitutes believed to be at work in Switzerland but said they expected the new tax to bring in tens of millions of francs.

The officials did not say how they planned to enforce it.

EU approves state aid to save Air France, Olympic Airways

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) gave approval for massive state aid to the French and Greek national airlines on Wednesday, but said that this was the last chance for Air France and ordered the repayment of earlier illegal aid.

The plans for state aid from the French and Greek governments have provoked a storm of controversy between free-marketisers and more defensive authorities in the European airline industry in recent months.

Commission officials said that the 17 commissioners had decided by vote to approve aid of 20 billion francs (\$3.75 billion) for Air France.

The commission also announced approval for Greek state aid of \$2.33 billion to Olympic Airways.

But they had insisted that the French government provide no more help to Air

France and that the company had to repay 1.5 billion francs provided by a public deposit organisation in 1993.

The commission held that given the precarious state of the airline's finance to private bank would have made the investment in shares which had been made by the highly influential Caisse des Depots deposit institution.

The aid had therefore been illegal under EU competition laws.

A spokesman for the commission said that approval for the new aid was also hedged with conditions to prevent the assistance from distorting the European airline market.

Earlier in Paris the French government had moved to create a holding company providing a framework to separate Air France subsidiaries from the rescue package.

Air France is fighting to survive a series of problems which have brought it to the verge of collapse during the last few years and the French government has warned that the aid will amount to a last rescue package.

Under a restructuring plan the company is to shed 5,000 jobs without forced redundancies.

dancies.

But the plan has provoked hostility from free-market forces in the European airline industry, and particularly from British Airways, which hold that aid for Air Force would open the way for similar aid to other struggling European airlines and set back efforts to liberalise the European airline industry.

Critics contend Air France should sell assets rather than rely on state aid, but in Paris the government set up a new holding company for the airline to provide a framework separating subsidiaries from the new cash.

The new Groupe Air France S.A. is to hold shares of Air France and its domestic subsidiary Air Inter, a decree in the Official Gazette said.

Air France is also involved in manoeuvres to sell a stake in its Meridien Hotel chain. The British company Forte has offered a higher price than the French Accor group but Air France has delayed a decision while it evaluates all aspects of the two bids.

The aid for the state-controlled Olympic Airways, of 1.9 billion ECUs, is in the form of loan guarantees, debt write-offs, the conversion of debt into capital and a cash injection.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3816/26	Canadian dollar
	1.5797/07	Deutsche marks
	1.7722/32	Dutch guilders
	1.3400/10	Swiss francs
	32.45/49	Belgian francs
	5.3955/05	French francs
	1583.8/5.3	Italian lire
	98.13/23	Japanese yen
	7.7307/07	Swedish crowns
	6.8851/01	Norwegian crowns
	6.2075/25	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5275/85	
One ounce of gold	\$386.85/387.25	

Iran to sell gas to Turkey

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will sell Turkey two billion cubic metres (71 billion cubic feet) of gas, president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Wednesday, and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel ended an official visit to Tehran.

Mr. Demirel, who was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Mr. Rafsanjani, told the radio the two neighbours had agreed to double annual bilateral trade to \$2 billion, Tehran radio said.

Both Mr. Demirel and Mr. Rafsanjani described their talks during a three-day visit as useful and said agreements were reached on energy and transport projects as well as regional and international issues, the radio said.

"Turkey asked to buy 10 billion cubic metres (353 billion cubic feet) of gas from Iran. We agreed to sell two billion cubic metres (71 billion cubic feet) for the time being," it quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the two countries had reached agreement on building pipelines to carry gas from Iran and Turkmenistan, the former Soviet Republic neighbouring it to the northeast, via Turkey to Europe, the radio said without giving details.

The multi-billion-dollar pipelines would provide valuable outlets for Iranian and Turkmen gas while giving Turkey new energy sources and transit revenue.

Five-nation negotiations are at an advanced stage to build a 4,000 kilometre line to carry natural gas from Turkmenistan through Iran to Europe or at least to Turkey.

Mr. Demirel said Iran and Turkey also discussed road and rail links and plans to connect the two countries' power grids.

Saudi prince buys stake in luxury hotel chain

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A Saudi prince who recently came to the rescue of the Euro Disney theme park announced Tuesday he had bought a stake in the prestigious Fairmont Hotel chain for an undisclosed sum.

Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, a member of the Saudi royal family, and the Swig family of San Francisco, the current owners of the luxury Fairmont chain, announced they would become 50-50 partners in a new hotel partnership.

The partnership will own and operate the flagship Fairmont hotel in San Francisco and two other Fairmont hotels in New Orleans and Dallas.

The luxury San Francisco Fairmont, built in 1907, is one of the city's best-known landmarks and was where the United Nations Charter was signed in 1945.

The five-star hotel served as the backdrop for the popular 1980s television series "Hotel".

The Fairmont hotels in Chicago and San Jose, California, will continue under the ownership of the Swig family, but may be brought into the partnership in the future, both sides said.

"The partnership is about burningish a gem — the Fairmont brand — by providing capital to enhance the high quality and value which Fairmont guests have come to enjoy," Prince Al Waleed said in a statement.

"We may also wish to expand the Fairmont brand to additional cities in the United States and abroad," said Prince Al Waleed, who becomes chairman of the group.

Richard Swig, vice-chairman of the new partnership, refused to disclose how much Prince Al Waleed was investing, but said it was "a good sum of money."

The San Francisco Chronicle last month quoted a hotel industry consultant as saying that the five Fairmont hotels could be worth up to \$400 million, far less than they were valued at during the 1980s real estate boom.

Mr. Swig said the reason for seeking a partner was to obtain an infusion of capital to enable the Fairmont chain to expand nationally and internationally.

"We've created a worldwide name, but there are only five hotels. We felt it was a waste not having them expand further," Mr. Swig told Reuters.

He said the new partnership would embark on a \$50 million renovation programme of the existing hotels and would be looking to buy new hotels. Mr. Swig suggested that in five to 10 years, the Fairmont group could grow to 25 or 30 hotels.

The privately held Fairmont group does not issue profit or loss figures. Mr. Swig said the group had been "holding (its) own" in recent years, but said the recession had hit business.

Prince Al Waleed, 37-year-old grandson of the founder of Saudi Arabia, King Abdul Aziz, has built a multimillion-dollar construction, banking, travel, real estate, broadcast and supermarket business.

Last month, he agreed to buy up to 24 per cent of the troubled Euro Disney theme park outside Paris for hundreds of millions of dollars.

SAAB recalling up to 75,000 cars

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish carmaker SAAB said Wednesday it was recalling up to 75,000 SAAB 9000 cars around the world because of faults with brake lights and engine-cooling units. SAAB spokesman Olle Wallen said the entire 1993 production line of 42,000 SAAB 9000s would be recalled to fix wrongly-installed brake lights.

Also, 50,000 SAAB 9000s made between 1992 and 1994 would be recalled to repair a fault with the car's oil-driven engine-cooling system. The 1993 SAABs would have both faults repaired at the same time.

Mr. Wallen said the recall would cost SAAB between five million and 10 million crowns (\$630,000 and \$1.25 million), but share analysts said the final figure was likely to be much higher.

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Nouredine Morceli

Games president confirms athletes paid cash bonuses

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — Goodwill Games President Jack Kelly confirmed Wednesday that its mile champion Nouredine Morceli was one of several athletes paid extra money for exceptional performance in the competition.

Morceli clocked the year's fastest time of three minutes 48.67 seconds as he won the title Tuesday night.

Kelly said he did not believe designated pacemakers in both the mile and 5,000 metres had cheapened the events.

"I think people came to watch a good race at the finish. They came to watch good times, and think they got what they came to see without cheapening the sport," Kelly said in an interview.

Pacemakers, who start but rarely ever finish races, are common on the Grand Prix circuit when a runner has arranged a world record attempt.

But they do not appear at major world competitions such as the Olympic Games or world championships

where the runners in finals must get through a series of qualifying rounds.

The Goodwill Games feature finals only with runners selected by invitation, although the organisers have been promoting the meeting as a genuine global championships.

Kelly said he did know the exact figure Algerian world record holder Morceli would be paid but added he expected the amount would be in four figures.

"It would not be tens of thousands of dollars," he said.

Asked why the organisers bothered to have medal ceremonies if the outcome of races had been decided in advance by pacemaking, Kelly replied: "I don't think they were pre-determined. It was not decided who was going to win."

But Kenya's world 3,000 metres steeplechase Moses Kiptani said Tuesday he had arranged for compatriot Kipuego Kororia and Ireland's Frank O'Mara to pace him in a world 5,000 metres world record attempt.

Television sources said the day before the race Kiptani would go for the record. The attempt failed, primarily because of windy conditions.

Morceli's agent Asmer Brahmi said two other Algerians had been enlisted earlier this week as pacemakers.

Kelly said he was not worried by pacemakers at an event promoted by the organisers as major global competition.

"Do you see many races where there's not pacemaking?" he responded. "I was at the world championships last year and clearly there were a couple of runners from the same country who had their own strategies to how they wanted to encourage each other and maximise their own times."

"I don't think that's out of character."

Kelly, head of the company which organises the games and enlists their participants, said the extra money is offered during negotiations with athletes' representatives and their federations.

Spilled beer lands Joyner-Kersey in trouble

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — Spilled beer led to threats of disqualification for world record holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey and angry words from her husband on a bizarre second day of the heptathlon at the Goodwill Games.

A games official accused the American Olympic champion of putting beer on her javelin to gain a better grip, and through an interpreter, threatened to disqualify her.

But she tearfully told the official she had not used the javelin after they had been moistened by spectators spilling beer on the implements as they lay on the ground before her competition.

An angry confrontation ensued between Joyner-Kersey, her husband and coach, and field events referee Albert Kalin.

Only then did a shaken Joyner-Kersey continue, claiming the Goodwill Games gold medal with her lowest winning score ever, 6,600 points.

"I'm not going to have Jackie Joyner-Kersey accused of cheating," Kersey forcefully told Kalin through an interpreter. "Either he apologises to Jackie or he disqualifies her."

Joyner-Kersey said the confusion began when officials brought her javelins on to the field after she had decided not to use them because the tips were wet.

She did not use the javelins in her warm-ups or in the competition, borrowing those of a fellow competitor.

"But the official came up and through the interpreter said I was breaking the rules of the game and that I was



U.S. athlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey is airborne during the women's heptathlon long-jump during the Goodwill Games' athletic competitions in St Petersburg Tuesday. (AFP photo)

shedding tears."

Former U.S. Olympian Jane Frederick, now a coach, said the incident was unfair.

"It shook her up," said Frederick. "It was improper to make that comment to her."

St Petersburg unlikely Mecca for beach culture

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — The words beach volleyball conjure up images of glamorous, sun-tanned bodies — male and female — leaping and diving around on California's golden beaches.

It's a sport with a mainstream American image, an image of wraparound sunglasses, headbands, knee supports and high-fives.

It is not a sport usually associated with a coastal town that nestles against the icy waters of the Gulf of Finland.

But if the message of the Goodwill Games is one of breaking down barriers, what better place could there be to stage the beach volleyball competition than in an artificially-created beach alongside a building that houses a burial crypt, is a former debtor's prison and is ice-bound for half the year.

St Petersburg's Peter and Paul Fortress, an 18th cen-

tury riverside edifice, may not be the obvious choice to stage a beach volleyball tournament — but it does have its plus points according to Georgy Yarkovenko, vice-president of the St Petersburg Volleyball Association.

"It is a surprising place for the event," he admitted, "but it has the best view in all of St Petersburg."

Overlooking the steeply sloping Neva River, the fortress offers panoramic views of golden spires, onion-domed churches and the Hermitage Museum.

"I can't imagine a more beautiful place in which to compete," said Claire Paterson, a Netherlands volleyball team member.

Part of the fortress grounds include a beach and military trucks hauled in tonnes of sand from northern Russia to cover the beach's original dusty, gravelly grit.

But international competi-

tors used to expansive, white-grained beaches were not too impressed with their imported playing surface.

"The new sand is hard," Paterson said. "But they're sweet to rake it after every match and pick out the rocks."

According to Yarkovenko, locals have long imagined the beach as a mini tropical oasis.

Each May, they begin a pilgrimage to the trash-littered strip to stand in baggy, Soviet underwear against the compound's sunlit but chilly walls.

"This is a northern city, with snow, ice and darkness over a lot of the year. So don't laugh at us," Yarkovenko said.

The Peter and Paul Fortress has not always had a "mini-tropical" image, yet suddenly it is something of an attraction.

The distinctly relaxed sport, which features two

teams of two people, is the surprise hit of the games, with hundreds jostling each day for seats in the small stand.

The hundreds who come probably have little idea of the history of the place.

They are probably unaware that several members of Russia's imperial Romanov family lie buried in the edifice's waterlogged crypt.

They probably don't know that the remains of last Tsar Nicholas II, murdered by Bolshevik revolutionaries in 1918, will be laid to rest there next year and that Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky spent several years in the fortress' granite debtor's prison.

Up-market American tourists, viewing the women's semifinals Monday lent the scene a swish aura as they chatted on cellular phones and drank bottled water. But

a finny California beach it was not.

A rickety yellow Russian bus blasted pop music from loudspeakers during the men's early matches last Saturday.

"Unlike our political history, our volleyball history is very short," Yarkovenko explained. "We started playing only two years ago."

Then, displaying what some might consider lunatic enthusiasm, he seemed to have been carried away by the spectacle.

"People in California will see this beach and its sights and will want to hold their tournaments here," he assured reporters.

If he was being joking, he wasn't letting on. Beach volleyball in California is one thing. Beach volleyball in St Petersburg... that's a one-off.

Simpson reward grows... but do rewards work?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — From a hand-lettered sign offering \$20 for the return of a lost cat to the \$13.5 million bounty for the capture of drug lord Pablo Escobar, rewards are as much a part of life as crime itself.

So many were not surprised when former American football great O.J. Simpson offered \$500,000 for information leading to the conviction of someone else in the slaying of his ex-wife and her friend.

People who study rewards, however, say the money rarely helps catch criminals — and often is put up by the perpetrators. But for those who do lead to convictions, legal experts say the promise of a reward is as good as a contract.

Paula Cooper, coauthor of the book "Reward" about offers in 60 crimes, said it's common for the accused to offer a reward to project an air of innocence. That's why she and her husband and coauthor, Paul Noble, were surprised it took Simpson more than a month to make his offer.

"Every day we were looking at each other and saying, 'Why hasn't this man posted a reward?'" Cooper said Monday.

She said rewards often involve more posturing than crime-solving. After all, "Anybody can set up a reward," she pointed out.

Anybody, indeed. New Jersey real estate magnate

Bernard Gimbel travelled to Los Angeles last weekend to add a \$250,000 check to the Simpson pot. Gimbel, 54, said he was a friend of Simpson's.

Gimbel hoped others would pitch in. "With three or four million, someone would come forward and squeal on their mother," he said.

Simpson lawyer Robert Shapiro called the reward "very generous," but declined to endorse it. "We're not working with him," Shapiro said.

Another offer is from the Globe tabloid magazine, which peddled the nation's supermarket checkout lines with the headline: "Who framed O.J.? \$1 million reward."

The proposition is simple: Tell the magazine "Whodunnit," and as long as it isn't Simpson, the magazine will pay \$1 million.

The catch? The money will be paid, the article says, "Provided the information grants Globe exclusive broadcast, screen and print rights to their story."

Law Professor Peter Arenella of the University of California, Los Angeles, doubted whether the main goal of the Simpson reward is finding a new suspect.

"The likelihood that they'll turn up usable material for a criminal investigation are probably pretty small," Arenella said. "The reward press conference was

just that — a press conference designed to portray Mr. Simpson as a 'factually innocent person'."

If someone does exonerate Simpson, however, that person will be in for a windfall. Reward offers are legally binding, said W. David Slawson, a law professor at the University of Southern California.

"You would regard those like an offer to buy a used car or anything else," Slawson said. "If any member of the public complies with their terms they'd be contractually obligated to comply with the offer."

While not as numerous as calls to Simpson's toll-free tip line, reward offers are still common.

Actress Winona Ryder put up \$200,000 last year for the safe return of Polly Klaas, the 12-year-old girl kidnapped from her home and later found dead.

President Bush offered \$1 million — which was never paid — for help ferreting Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega out of the Vatican diplomatic mission in his U.S.-occupied country. And combined offers put a \$23.5 million price tag on the head of Escobar, the drug lord, before he was killed last year by Colombian authorities.

The Colombian government's portion of the award was shared by the men who hunted him down and by widows and orphans of his victims.

Spurs sign Dumitrescu

LONDON (AFP) — Romanian World Cup star Ilie Dumitrescu signed for English Premiership club Tottenham Hotspur Wednesday.

His 2.6 million transfer from Steaua Bucharest is subject to a medical Friday, and on the 25-year-old midfielder being granted a work permit.

Dumitrescu was a key member of the Romanian side that reached the World Cup quarterfinals in the United States.

He scored twice in the 3-2 second round win over Argentina.

Dumitrescu's arrival will give Spurs' Argentine manager Ossie Ardiles some welcome relief from a summer of frustration in the transfer market.

First he was spurned by Dumitrescu's international teammate Gheorghe Hagi, who joined Barcelona, and then by Brazilian World Cup-winning defender Marcio Santos, who is expected to move to Italy.

Goodwill Games women team defeats Team Select

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Goodwill Games women's team used its defence, quickness and experience to build a 23-point half-time lead and cruise to a 104-47 exhibition victory Tuesday night over Team Select at the Charlotte Coliseum.

The game, played before Dream Team II's exhibition against the German national team, was a final tuneup for the Goodwill team, which heads to Russia this week for its opener against Italy Aug. 3.

The U.S. women are 10-0 in Goodwill Games competition, winning gold medals in 1986 and 1990. The team recently won the bronze medal in the world championships in Australia.

Team select, a group of current and former college players, fell behind early against the older and internationally experienced Goodwill team, going scoreless for

a 5½-minute stretch as the Goodwill team built an 18-6 lead.

With Dawn Staley excellent at point guard, the Goodwill team pulled away in the first 20 minutes despite poor foul shooting.

Lisa Leslie scored seven points during the team's first run, while Sheryl Swoopes, the 1993 national college player of the year at Texas Tech, had six Swoopes, Leslie and Rntbie Bolton-Holfield led the Goodwill team with 12 each.

The select team, plagued by 15 first-half fouls, pulled to 21-12 with 7:35 left before halftime, but a 16-5 run over the next five minutes pushed the Goodwill team's lead to 20 points. Shanda Berry had six points during the spurt.

A 24-footer by Swoopes to end the half and another less than two minutes into the second half pushed the margin to 30 points.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HURCH
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FINE PLAY BY YOUNG STAR

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 7 6
♥ Q 6 8
♦ 2
♣ A J 8 5

EAST
♠ Q 5 2
♥ A K J 4
♦ K 10 8 7 6 2
♣ A 8 4

SOUTH
♠ K 3
♥ 10 8 7
♦ A 8 4
♣ K Q 8 8

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ 1♥ 1♠ 1NT
2♣ Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

To call them "junior" is something of a misnomer — the age limit is 25. Certainly, the skill of the players in the World Junior Championships, held recently in Athens, Denmark, showed the seriousness of the competition. Witness the dummy play technique of Murray Green of Australia on this hand from an early round in the tournament.

North's one-diamond opening bid automatically showed a spade suit and East made a questionable double — our choice would have been an

overall of one heart to direct a lead, or a quiet pass. Three no trumps was reached in quick time.

West led the ten of diamonds. East produced the jack and declarer held up the ace. After cashing the king of hearts, East reverted to the queen of diamonds. Had declarer again withheld the ace, West would have been able to overtake with the king and switch back to a heart, giving the defenders three heart tricks and two diamonds. But declarer played low from hand and now had to make eight more tricks, without giving up the lead.

The obvious way to go about this would be to take the spade finesse, but declarer was convinced by East's double that the queen of spades was offside. To neutralize the lady's clearer crossed to the jack of clubs and let the jack of spades.

Had East covered with the queen, declarer would have won with the king and then led a spade to the king to complete the backward finesse. When East withheld the queen, declarer played low from hand and the jack won. Declarer continued with spades to the king, returned to the ace of spades and cashed the ace of spades. When the suit broke evenly, declarer had 10 tricks.

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2
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Choir Conductor, Samia Ghannoun
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• Mariah Carey's "Hero" and Billy Joel's "River of Dreams"
• Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf"
• Tchaikovsky's "1812" Overture
• An item of Arab music including Mohammad Alghal Walah's "Al Kamm" Sayyid Darwish's "Tilal Ya Mu'alla Noor" and Elias Rahbani's "Kan Ya Kan"
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lightning strikes soccer team

BAD SCHUSSENRIED, Germany (AFP) — Lightning struck six members of a soccer team during a stadium here, critically injuring one, police said Wednesday. The 24-year-old player was directly struck by the bolt Tuesday evening and was in critical condition Wednesday in hospital in this southern town. The team's 32-year-old trainer suffered severe shock and four other players were knocked off their feet by the flash, police said. The lightning struck as the 15 players were huddled around the trainer for a team talk.

Italian GP may be run after all

MILAN (R) — The Italian formula One Grand Prix at Monza, called off two weeks ago because of safety reasons, may be run after all, officials ruled Tuesday. The regional assembly of Lombardy approved a plan to remove over 500 trees around the "great curve" of the Monza track in accordance with recommendations made by Ferrari driver Gerhard Berger. The plan must now be approved by Milan's Environmental and Cultural Affairs Office before the Sept. 11 race can go ahead, officials said. Italy's government had asked the Grand Prix Drivers' Association (GPDA), to see whether safety conditions were adequate at the Monza track after Italy's Motor Sports Federation (CSAI) called off the race. Berger, who represents the GPDA said the "great curve" had to be made straighter before the race could take place.

Lalas fails to sign for Padova

PADUA, Italy (R) — American World Cup star Alexi Lalas arrived in Italy Tuesday but failed to sign with Padova, as expected, a spokesman for the first division club said. The spokesman said Lalas, 24, had promised to sign with the club, newly promoted to Serie A, after meeting club officials, who presented the player to hundreds of screaming fans. But Lalas first wanted his lawyer in New York to review the faxed copy of the contract. "Lalas promised us he will send back a signed copy of the contract by midnight local time on Wednesday," spokesman Guido Fattori said. "We don't think Lalas is pulling our leg." Lalas has also been linked with English premier league club Coventry and VfL Bochum in Germany. He is now due to return to the northern Italian city Monday when, for the second time, he is expected to sign for Padova to become the first American to play in the Italian league.

Detari heads for Switzerland

GENEVA (R) — Hungarian international midfielder Lajos Detari has signed a one-year contract with Neuchâtel Xamax, the Swiss first division club announced Tuesday. Detari, 31, who has 57 caps, joins Xamax from Genoa, after earlier spells with Eintracht Frankfurt and Olympiakos Piraeus. The transfer fee was not disclosed. Neuchâtel's manager, Frenchman Gilbert Gress said Detari had signed just before the transfer deadline, and would be eligible to play when the new season starts Wednesday.

Christie "fit for Helsinki"

LONDON (AFP) — Olympic sprint champion Linford Christie will be fit to defend his European 100m in Helsinki, according to Great Britain teammate Colin Jackson. The 34-year-old Londoner, sidelined for two weeks with a torn hamstring, has been given the thumbs-up by a specialist in Munich, Jackson said Wednesday. The world 100m hurdles champion, in St. Petersburg for the Goodwill Games, said: "Linford is going to be there. The problem has cleared up and his leg should be plain sailing for him from now on. He believes the break might have been for the best. He had been feeling quite tired." Jackson said Christie, bidding for a third successive European title, would either return to a Monte Carlo grand prix meeting next Tuesday, or head straight into the championships five days later.

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Iraq wins Jordanian handball championship

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Iraqi women's handball team Wednesday defeated its Jordanian counterpart 21-15 to win the Jordan Women's Handball Championship organised by the Jordan Handball Federation.

The experienced Iraqi team took control of the game and attacked with full power against the tired Jordanian defence.

Although the Jordanian team began scoring, the Iraqi team took the lead, ending the first half 12-6.

The second half witnessed several attempts by the Jordanian team to reduce the difference, but that did not stop the fast and accurate attack of the Iraqi team, which kept on scoring to give no chance for the Jordanians to concentrate their attempts.

The Jordanian team who looked confused, tired and lacking concentration brought in Badia Haddadin to replace Rana Lahham for some time to reduce the difference but for no avail.

The Jordanian team took the second place in the championship, followed by the Cypriot team.

The Iraqi team earlier beat the Cypriot team 20-15, and Jordan defeated Cyprus 22-20.



Rana Lahham tries to score (right) as Iraq's Amira Hanna leaps to defend and Najla Madloul watches

Jordan Handball Federation's silver Ahlam Haddadin commended the idea of having such championships which give the chance to the national side to compete with foreign teams.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Haddadin said the team needs all the support it can get.

"What the team needs is more experienced and more exposure," she said.

Lendl beats Mattar

TORONTO (R) — Ivan Lendl, the 12th seed, began his longest quest for a seventh crown at the \$1.72 million Canadian open tennis tournament with a decisive 6-4, 6-1 first-round victory over Luiz Mattar of Brazil Tuesday.

In the only other match featuring a seeded player, 15th-seeded Richey Reneberg easily defeated fellow American Patrick McEnroe 6-3, 6-1 in the first round.

Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland spoiled Canadian Greg Rusedski's chance of moving into the second round by winning a marathon 6-4, 3-6,

7-6 (11-9) match. At 34, Lendl is the oldest singles player in the draw. His most recent of 94 career singles titles came at the Tokyo Indoors in October 1993. His latest Canadian Open title, his sixth, was in 1989.

For the first time in a long time, the 30th-ranked Lendl says he feels free of the back pain that has plagued him since February. He underwent a medical procedure to alleviate the problem last month.

"It was done with a needle," Lendl reported. "A very long and very pointy

needle."

Lendl had a slow start against the 46th-ranked Mattar, falling behind 2-0 in the opening set. But he immediately broke even to 2-2, then on a winning backhand at 30-40 in the fifth game took a lead he never surrendered.

In the second set, Mattar held serve only in the fifth game and Lendl lost just four points on his serve.

"I still enjoy competing," Lendl said. "I felt a little bit caught by surprise by the cold conditions out there tonight. I had trouble adjusting to that for a while."

Schumacher's team ponder appeal against 2-race ban

LONDON (R) — The Benetton team were considering Wednesday whether to appeal against Michael Schumacher's two-race ban and enable him to compete in the German Grand Prix this weekend.

Schumacher, the Formula One world championship leader, was given the ban by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) Tuesday as punishment for failing to obey an official instruction at the British Grand Prix earlier this month.

The FIA said Schumacher had seven days to appeal, a move which would automatically suspend the ban. But if he is to race on home ground at Hockenheim Sunday the appeal needed to be lodged sooner.

"We are considering and discussing the matter," a Benetton spokeswoman said from the team's British headquarters Wednesday. "Then we will issue a statement later

today saying whether we will accept the decision or appeal."

The absence of Schumacher at the weekend would be a grave blow for the Hockenheim organisers who are relying on him to draw the German fans.

A spokesman for the race told the mass-circulation German newspaper Bild: "It would be a catastrophe if Schumacher did not race. Sunday is sold out — 148,000 people. We are expecting 60,000 to 70,000 for the final training session Saturday alone."

Bild itself said some 4,000 fans were already camping at Hockenheim. "If 'Schumi' does not start here then this place will explode," it said.

Schumacher's ban was imposed for failing to obey a black flag order to stop after he illegally overtook Briton Damon Hill during the warm-up lap which preceded the race. He was also docked

the six points he won by finishing second in the grand prix and Benetton were fined \$300,000.

Brazilian driver Rubens Barrichello and Finn Mika Hakkinen were both given one-race bans by the FIA Tuesday, also for offences at Silverstone July 10. But their bans were suspended for three races.

The pair collided on the final bend of the race and Hakkinen overtook another car on the formation lap.

Hill, the Silverstone winner, was also summoned to appear before the FIA world council disciplinary hearing in Paris to explain his action in collecting a British flag from a spectator during his slow-down lap.

But Hill, who will be favourite to wait Hockenheim if Schumacher is absent, escaped punishment after proving that he had slowed down but not stopped.

French clubs bid to forget scandals and World Cup flop

PARIS (AFP) — France will put last season's Olympique Marseille scandal and World Cup failure firmly behind it as the new campaign begins here Friday.

Champions Paris Saint Germain, who travel to Le Havre, are again being touted as the favourites, with Monaco as the main challenger following Marseille's relegation to the second division following the match-rigging affair.

But both Paris Saint Germain, with former French international Luis Fernandez in command after the sacking of manager Arthur Jorge, and Monaco are still struggling to decide on their final line-ups.

Fernandez must decide whether to offload Brazilian midfielder Rai, who spent most of last season — and the World Cup final — on the substitutes' bench after a

dramatic loss of form. A number of Japanese clubs are reportedly to be interested.

Arsene Wenger, meanwhile, the Monaco coach who was tipped to leave for Bayern Munich last season, must find a solution to the Jürgen Klinsmann dilemma.

The German World Cup star, who announced he would quit the club last season as it became clear they would not qualify for Europe, has yet to sign a transfer, despite being linked with clubs in England, Italy, Spain — and with Bayern Munich.

Monaco, who host Metz Friday, have already moved to fill the gap, with Brazilian Da Silva Anderson snapped up from Marseille after an exodus of star names from the south coast club.

Anderson joined Marseille on loan last season from Swiss club Servette and became an instant hit, scoring at a rate of almost a goal a game for his first ten matches as the team clinched runner-up spot in the championship.

He will team up with Belgian World Cup star Enzo Scifo and play alongside French international Youri Djorkaeff and Nigerian Victor Ikpeba.

Paris Saint Germain will be weakened early on by the enforced absences of Brazilians Valdo and Ricardo, who are both injured. Ricardo's right thigh strain cost him his place in the World Cup triumph.

Cannes, meanwhile, Fernandez's former club, are expected to challenge this year and open against newly-promoted Bastia. Bordeaux play Nice while Nantes take on Lyon.

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Cinema	Tel: 634144	Cinema	Tel: 699238	Cinema	Tel: 677420	Tel: 618274 - 618275	Tel: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION		Sharhan-Mahmoud Hamideh — Hussein Fahmi in Women's market Arabic		CONCORD "1" Robin Hood Men in Tights CONCORD "2" GET AWAY		THELMA AND LOUISE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 Starting Aug. 1 the Political play "SAHRA KANAUNIEH"	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PLEACE! (Salam) Ya (Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is open 7 days.
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30				

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli navy gets new missile boat

HAIFA (AFP) — The Israeli navy commissioned Wednesday a new missile corvette, the largest vessel in its fleet, equipped with a battery of the latest U.S. and Israeli technology. The navy described the first of three Saar 5 ships on order from the United States as a "new generation" of vessel capable of attacking surface ships and submarines as well as defending against incoming missiles and aircraft. The 1,275-tonne craft with a maximum speed of 34 knots and a helicopter landing pad, was named the "Eilat." Onboard computers and weapons systems were Israeli-built while the radar is a joint U.S.-Israeli project. President Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff General Ehad Barak attended the ceremony at Haifa. The other two Saar 5 boats are due for delivery before the end of next year. The Israeli navy has about 50 combat vessels ranging from submarines to missile-armed hydrofoils.

Iran holds exercises near Iraqi border

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian army held military exercises near the Iraqi border on Wednesday to mark the sixth anniversary of a "failed offensive" by an Iraq-based rebel group, Iranian state radio said. The one-day manoeuvres, involving top army commanders, included the bombardment of a region near Iraq occupied by a pretend enemy. In the operation, dubbed "Mersad," the army and volunteers repulsed a major offensive similar to one launched from Iraq by the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, the main armed Iranian opposition group, in 1988.

U.S. warns citizens in Algeria of possible attack

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Tuesday that it had received information indicating that Americans may be targeted for attack or kidnapping in Algeria. "We have information indicating that an attack on or kidnapping of Americans may be planned," said a U.S. embassy spokesman's office. The spokesman said U.S. authorities were not in a position "to determine the veracity of the information, but believe all such threats should be taken seriously." It said the embassy was in touch with the Algerian authorities and had requested their full cooperation. It also urged Americans in Algeria to exercise "utmost precaution."

Turkish park fire brought under control

GELIBOLU (AP) — A fire fanned by high winds raced through Gallipoli national park on Tuesday, destroying almost all its wood and killing a fireman. The fire on the Gallipoli peninsula, overlooking the Dardanelles, burned 20,000 hectares of forest, said Kemal Tarim, a spokesman for the Eccebat governorship. The region was the scene of a World War I battle in 1915 between allied forces and the Turks for control of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus straits. The months-long fighting resulted in severe casualties before the allies withdrew. The explosions of two mines, left from the battle of the Gallipoli, panicked some firefighters, the Anadolu news agency said. Firefighters aided by army troops were deployed to battle the blaze, which was briefly brought under control Tuesday before being whipped up again by winds. The fire started Monday, and may have been caused by farmers burning wheat stubble to clear fields after harvest. Two villages and a camping area in the Saros Bay were evacuated.

Mubarak gives okay for 5 militants to hang

CAIRO (AFP) — President Hosni Mubarak has ratified death sentences imposed on five militants for trying to kill Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali, an Egyptian newspaper reported Wednesday. The five were sentenced to hang on July 16 by the Cairo higher military court for a bomb attack in the Egyptian capital last August which wounded General Ali in the arm, killed three passers-by and two militants. The five whose death sentences were ratified by Mr. Mubarak Tuesday have the right to appeal in the next two weeks, the semi-official daily Al Gomhuriya said. Ten more defendants were sentenced by the court to terms ranging from three years in prison to five years' hard labour. Two others were acquitted. Nine were charged with being members of Talaab Al Fatah (Vanguard of the Conquest), the military wing of the fundamentalist group Al Jihad (boly war). Military courts have handed down 55 death sentences since 1992, 39 of which have been carried out.

15,000 face expulsion from S. Arabia

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — About 150,000 Afghans, Burmese and Bangladeshis holding Pakistani passports and living in Saudi Arabia face an uncertain future after Islamabad's decision to disown them, a newspaper said Wednesday. Saudi Arabia has threatened to deport the immigrants to Pakistan if Islamabad cannot or refuses to renew their passports, the Muslim daily said. The English language daily said the immigrants were given Pakistani passports under the government of military strongman General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who ruled Pakistan from 1977 until his death in a 1988 plane crash. Current Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was a fierce opponent of Zia, who ordered the execution of her father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1979. The paper quoted Interior Minister Nasreullah Babar as saying: "They are not our liability and should not be deported to Pakistan." The report said the Saudi government was insisting that the immigrants were Pakistani nationals under Saudi law and that Pakistan was responsible for them. The two governments were holding talks on the issue through diplomatic channels, the report said.

Israeli farmers get \$40 m compensation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government agreed Wednesday to pay farmers \$40 million over the next four years to offset losses caused by the opening of local markets to Palestinian vegetables, officials said. The finance and agriculture ministries signed the deal with farmers' groups. Tomato, cucumber, aubergine, courgette and potato growers will receive money to help switch to other production since Palestinian vegetables are cheaper, largely thanks to lower labour costs. Under the Paris agreement, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation agreed on free movement of agricultural produce, although restrictions on poultry, eggs, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes and melons will not be lifted totally until 1998.

Kuwait campus to segregate sexes

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait University's arts faculty plans to segregate men and women students from September in an experiment hailed by Islamists as an advance for their cause, the Arab Times reported on Wednesday. The English-language daily reported faculty dean Abdullah Al Mahanna as saying the arts campus would become all-male on Sept. 24 for a trial period of several months. Women students would be moved to a separate campus. The newspaper said the decision followed a campaign for segregation by the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, which is controlled by Islamists who want to turn the small emirate into an Islamic state. Neither Mr. Mahanna nor university rector Fayza Al Kharaifi could be contacted immediately for comment. Two academics said by telephone they did not believe the plan could work because the university's teaching schedule was not arranged to allow for segregation of the sexes.

Iranian blamed for Argentina explosion

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — An Iranian soldier on a lengthy visit here planned the bombing of the Jewish charity that killed at least 95 people and injured 250 others, a private news agency reported.

Diarios y Noticias (DyN) quoted judicial sources as saying that the description of the Iranian soldier was contained in a statement in Argentine authorities by Maucher Montaner, a former Iranian diplomat who defected.

Mr. Montaner has been living in exile since last week in Caracas, Venezuela where Argentine Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano travelled in secret for two days this week to meet with him.

The judge also obtained a list of suspects involved in the 1992 attack on the Israeli embassy here that killed 30 people and in the July 18 bombing of Argentine Jewish Mutual Association building.

Mr. Montaner may have detailed operations of Iranian-backed groups in Latin America, according to reports.

Mr. Galeano told reporters that dramatic information about the attack on the Jewish charity would be released "at the opportune moment" and that the information "is going to bowl you over."

President Carlos Menem, in an interview late Tuesday with Chilean television, said that "the investigation is going well," adding that the probe was focusing on "Islamic, Shiite organisations based in Lebanon."

Mr. Menem, however, said those organisations merely carried out orders and that the ultimate goal was determining who were "the masterminds and where the funds for such (acts) come from."

Foreign Minister Guido de Tella summoned Iranian Ambassador Haid Soleiman Four on Tuesday for the second time in 24 hours.

"We talked about many subjects and about terrorism, of which our country is also a victim," Mr. Soleiman said, adding that Tehran condemned the attack and that diplomatic relations between the two countries would continue.

Authorities reported the arrest Tuesday of three Iranian suspects in the Buenos Aires bombing — two men and a woman.

According to DyN, the woman was an employee of the Iranian embassy who allegedly purchased a delivery truck that served as the car-bomb that levelled the seven-storey Jewish charity.

The woman was arrested at Ezeiza international airport for carrying a forged passport, according to federal police sources quoted by Telam, the state news agency.

The other two suspects reportedly worked at the car dealership that sold the van. Lebanon has said it has no information about the group implicated in the bomb attack.

"Lebanon has no information whatsoever about the implication of a Lebanese group" in the bombing, Foreign Minister Fawaz Bouze told AFP late Tuesday.

He said the Argentine Foreign Ministry summoned Lebanon's ambassador in Buenos Aires, Ryad Al Qantar, and asked him for Beirut's cooperation to find those behind the bombing.

The Argentine foreign ministry told Mr. Qantar they had information indicating that the Muslim fundamentalist group Ansarallah (Followers of God) was a branch of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah group, which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in South Lebanon.

Last week President Menem said Ansarallah had issued a statement in Sidon, Lebanon, claiming responsibility for the bombing in Buenos Aires.

The statement, issued late Friday, mentioned Monday's bombing as well as an attack Tuesday on a Panamanian commuter plane that killed 21 people, including 12 leading Jewish businessmen. But it did not directly claim responsibility for the two attacks.

"We do not consider this statement which was carried by an international news agency as serious proof, namely because it has been denied," Mr. Bouze said.



BLAST IN LONDON: The wreckage of a car-bomb that exploded early Wednesday in North Finchley, London, is visible among the debris on the street. The bomb, the second

to explode in London in 12 hours, injured several people (see page 1) (AFP photo)

N. Korea has 5 nuclear warheads, defector says

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea has developed five nuclear warheads and is now concentrating on building missiles to carry them, a North Korean defector — the son-in-law of his country's prime minister — said Wednesday.

Kang Myon-Do, 36, told a news conference in the South Korean capital Seoul that North Korea was not simply using suspicious about its nuclear programme as a negotiating tactic to obtain diplomatic concessions from the West.

Appearing confident and relaxed, he said the head of operations at the North's nuclear plant at Yongbyon told him in October 1993 that Pyongyang had secured five nuclear bombs.

"I understand North Korea had completed developing five nuclear warheads by the end of last year," he said.

"It sees nuclear development as the only means to maintain Kim Jong-Il's regime," he said, referring to the son of North Korea's late leader Kim Il-Sung who has apparently smoothly succeeded his father as leader of the Stalinist state.

Seoul's agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said Kang Myon-Do was the vice president of a trading company run by the North Korean presidential palace's accounting division, and had sought asylum in the south in May through a third country.

An NSP spokesman said it had needed time to confirm Mr. Kang was a real son-in-law of Prime Minister Kang Song-San and for intensive investigation "because he's from a really high-ranking family in the north."

Mr. Kang said he was the only son-in-law of Kang Song-San by his second marriage in 1992. He said he defected because of his hatred for Kim Jong-Il after being held in a correction camp for two years on charges of unauthorised contacts with foreigners in 1990.

"I respected and really liked Kim Il-Sung... but I didn't like Kim Jong-Il," he said.

The defector's claim was met with scepticism and doubt here.

"The nuclear weapons North Korea is said to possess could, in a strict sense, be crude-type nuclear devices, rather than being nuclear weapons," the South's Yonhap news agency quoted a government official as saying.

Independent sources, who preferred not to be named, seconded the opinion, saying that the North might have crude devices, but that to call them bombs ready for delivery was probably an exaggeration.

The sources pointed out that U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and the International Atomic Energy Agency, two of whose inspectors are at the North's nuclear complex in Yongbyon, believed Pyongyang had only enough plutonium — 12 to 15 kilograms — for "one or two" nuclear weapons.

The sources pointed to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev's statement published July 25 that he was "very sceptical" on the chances of the North having developed a bomb, though possession of plutonium was a different matter.

Russian experts had

advised North Korea on its nuclear programme.

Yonhap quoted South Korean experts as saying that it appeared extremely unlikely on the basis of current intelligence reports that North Korea would have been able to complete the five stages needed to build a bomb.

Those five stages, it said, were plutonium extraction, test detonation, combining the first two, assembly of a bomb and placing the warhead on the delivery mechanism.

Before his death July 8, Kim Il-Sung denied the North was producing a bomb, and joked that there was no place for his country to test one.

Placing the warhead on the means of delivery requires tens of thousands of precision parts, Yonhap quoted the experts as saying.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sang-Joo Wednesday declined comment on reports that North Korea had nuclear bombs.

"I have not received any details from Seoul about that," he said in Bangkok.

Mr. Han was speaking after talks in Bangkok with his counterparts from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on security, political and economic issues.

A senior U.S. official at the talks said that Mr. Kang's claim undermined the importance of Washington's moves for talks with North Korea on the nuclear issue.

Reports like this make (U.S.-North Korea) talks all the more important," Thomas Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary for East Asia and Pacific affairs, said.

Turks said rebel Kurds inside Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish forces killed at least 70 rebel Kurds 20 kilometres inside Iraq in their first cross-border air raid in two months, officials said on Wednesday.

Armed forces spokesman Colonel Dogu Silihciglu told Reuters that Tuesday's air strikes killed more than 70 guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) and destroyed a munitions store.

"Planes struck a group of about 100 PKK bandits preparing for a cross-border attack into Turkey," he said. "They hit early Tuesday and over 70 bandits were killed."

"The raid is now over," he said. "But we will continue to hit northern Iraq as necessary. We will do all we can against threats to our state."

Turkish air forces last struck Iraq territory in mid-May, when they hit a PKK camp in Zaleh, more than 100 kilometres from the Iraqi-Turkish frontier.

A week-long strike in April had killed about 80 rebels in north Iraq, officials then said.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel wound up a visit to Iran on Wednesday with the two neighbours pledging to thwart rebel groups.

Mr. Demirel told reporters on his departure that his two-day visit "opened a new chapter" in relations with Tehran and the two countries will cooperate to prevent "terrorists from using our soil."

Turkey has urged Iran to stop what it says are cross-border attacks by PKK separatists.

Sanaa pays Aden wages, lifts curfew

ADEN (Agencies) — The Yemeni government told state workers in Aden they would receive their first wages in four months starting on Wednesday in another move likely to restore confidence to citizens of the defeated south.

State workers in the Aden region have not been paid since just before the outbreak of war between northern and southern Yemeni forces on May 4.

Finance Ministry Under-Secretary Mohammad Yahya Al Houboud said June wages would be paid immediately to all state workers in the governorate of Aden and July salaries would be disbursed next week. Payment of arrears for April and May were being worked out.

As representatives of the victorious government and their southern rivals prepared to meet in Geneva for peace talks on Thursday, Sanaa has sped up the effort to get Aden back on its feet again.

It has lifted a night curfew imposed last week on the city that became the southern secessionist stronghold to stop the widespread looting which followed Aden's fall to northern troops on July 7.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement the curfew was lifted on Wednesday because "the circumstances which called for the announcement of the curfew" had ended. A similar curfew in other parts

of the country was also declared over.

Aden airport, which was a target for northern bombing attacks during the war, also resumed domestic services in Wednesday and planned its first flight to Djibouti on Thursday.

The oil ministry said Aden oil refinery had received 50,000 tonnes of crude oil from the northern Marib field since restarting operations on Saturday and should satisfy local demand for gasoline, diesel and butane gas.

Ministry Under-Secretary Mohammad Abdul Rajeb told reporters these would be sold at pre-war prices.

The refinery, damaged by bombing during the war, stopped operations on June 3 for security reasons. It has since been repaired but the stoppage led to fuel shortages which have only just started to ease.

Workers were still collecting the piles of stinking garbage which have been festering in the heat in Aden since the war ended. But doctors said on Tuesday the threat of a cholera epidemic, which has killed 21 people so far, had receded.

The United Nations on Tuesday confirmed Yemeni reconciliation talks would take place under U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi who has continued to mediate between the Yemeni factions.

Israeli newspapers urge early polls

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Two Israeli newspapers have urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to capitalise on his triumph peace summit with King Hussein by calling early elections to shore up his minority government.

"Rabin should call for early elections, the sooner the better. He is now at the peak of his popularity," the English-language daily Jerusalem Post, though critical of Mr. Rabin's policies, said on Wednesday.

"The government's plan had been exposed for all to see, and if Rabin wins the election now, he will have a mandate to do precisely what he wants to do," its editorial said.

Israel's largest daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth made the same point on Tuesday.

Mr. Rabin's centre-left coalition falls short of mustering a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat parliament. It must rely in key parliamentary votes on Arab and left-wing legislators from outside the ruling coalition.

Efforts to bring religious and rightist parties into the government to create a majority have been frustrating.

"Yitzhak Rabin, surely two years ago, when you started serving as prime minister, you didn't dream in less than 24 months you would make so many mira-

cles," Yedioth Ahronoth wrote in an editorial.

"You thought things would move 'at their own pace,' as you said. But they ran, galloped. In one year you twice shook the hands of Arab leaders on the White House lawn, and they recognised Israel and committed to make peace with it." "Yet, your coalition is in danger, it is very weak. You are angry at Shas, Yitad, Meretz (political parties) and your ministers. Spare your nerves, Yitzhak, go to elections now. The people of Israel will show their gratitude," it said.

A top Israeli official said Israel will benefit financially from its interim agreement with Jordan and could finally become part of the Mideast.

The historic accord signed by Mr. Rabin and King Hussein in Washington Monday approved a number of steps towards normalisation including direct telephone links, joint electricity grids, free tourist access and accelerated talks on an international air corridor.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said that, judging by Monday's developments, Israelis would soon be able to travel freely to Amman.

"We are already talking about open phone lines and a joint electric system that will save Israel \$700 million annually," Mr. Beilin said on Israel Television.

COLUMN

Small Rwandan boy almost buried alive

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — A six-year-old Rwandan boy shovelled into a truck with scores of rotting corpses was plucked to safety as he struggled to climb out of a mass grave Tuesday outside this Zairean town, an AFP photographer said. In one of the daily scenes of horror in the ongoing Rwandan crisis, the naked boy apparently was picked up while asleep or unconscious along with dozens of the corpses that line the roadsides near Goma, across the border from Rwanda, and now home to more than a million refugees. Piled onto a truck that unloaded the bodies into a mass grave two kilometres north of the town, he was saved by the driver of an excavator who suddenly noticed a body move, the photographer said. The child, struggling to escape and almost smothered, has been taken to a centre for lost and orphaned children.

Snubbed on trip to Far East

KHABAROVSK, Russia (AP) — Vladimir Zhirinovskiy endured another snub when the head of the regional administration refused to meet with the ultranationalist lawmaker during his nationwide tour. It was the second time in the past month that Mr. Zhirinovskiy has received a cool welcome in a regional capital. He began his current trip last Saturday in an effort to boost his sagging popularity. In late June Mr. Zhirinovskiy angrily stormed into the governor's office in Nizhny Novgorod after being met at the airport by demonstrations who called him a fascist and told him to go home. Regional officials had refused to meet him, and the governor — who was out of town at the time — later filed a complaint against Mr. Zhirinovskiy for breaking into his office and threatening his staff. Viktor Isbayev, head of the Khabarovsk region in Russia's Far East, said he would not meet with Mr. Zhirinovskiy or welcome his delegation to the region, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. A Zhirinovskiy spokesman in Moscow dismissed Mr. Isbayev's snub, saying such a meeting was "not important." Andrei Losev, Mr. Zhirinovskiy's chief of staff, said his boss met with Khabarovsk voters Tuesday and then left for Vladivostok.

U.S. Women to operate combat helicopters

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The army will send women to operate Cobra and Apache helicopters flying cover in air cavalry units for tanks on the battlefield, Pentagon sources said Tuesday. But women are still barred from operating the key field artillery weapon Multiple Launch Rocket System or to fly choppers for stealthy special operations units, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The expanded role for women close to the battlefield, coupled with the restrictions marks a compromise between Army Secretary Togo West pushing for more women in battle units and Army Chief of Staff General Gordon Sullivan who wants a more limited approach. Women will be barred from infantry, armour and field artillery combat units, which make up about 27 per cent of the army posts. Air cavalry units operate within sight of an opposing force but they are not expected to come in direct contact with the enemy.

German-Russian team to study Arctic ice floes

KIEL, Germany (AFP) — A German-Russian expedition will set off for the Arctic Thursday to study the effect of global warming, the Geomar Institute in this northern city said. Thirty-one scientists are to look into the consequences of global warming on ice floes in the Laptev Sea, expedition leader Heidemarie Kassens said. The sea lies off the northern Russian coast between the Severnaya Zemlya and Novosibirskiy Islands.